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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.



A FAMILY NEWSPAPER FOR TOWN AND COUNTRY.

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THE TALK OF THE TOWN.

ENGLISH weather, vile and ridiculous as it seems to the foreigner and to the travelled, is not without its value. The English people are a commercial people; they know how to make the most of a bad bargain, and lose few opportunities of salving their disasters by "damages," and thus they have ever forced a compensation from the climate, for cough, cold, and catarrh, by rendering its extensive varieties a medium of introduction to all the pleasure and all the business of life. If the great physical want of the British lion is a sunny and uninfluenza'd sky, the great moral desideratum of that animal whose especial characteristic it is to be very fond of peace but little alarmed at war is, a topic for conversation. Thus are all things arranged for good. A certain learned ecclesiastic once observed, as the most remarkable instance of that happy fact, that nature had caused a river to flow past every city of consequence in the world. He was a French ecclesiastic. Had he been born in England, it would not have been left for us to point a similar lesson, and to rouse an ungrateful people at this late period of its history to the fact that its colloquial destination is provided for in the very climate they revile.

It is some compensation for the delay, however, that for a long series of years so fine an opportunity as the present affords has never presented itself for expatiating on this fortunate provision. Our contemporaries and we ourselves anticipated, ere this such information from that most uneasy seat, the seat of war, as would have loosed the British tongue even in an omnibus. The expectancy is not fulfilled, and we are thrown upon the weather. But, let us ask, what weather? Ever a friend in need, it is now a friend indeed; for every man is his own traveller in Russian snows. The City of London, in several of its most important roads, is (or was) only approachable—(we quote from a very respectable journal, and on the testimony of several suburban citizens)—through "mountains of snow."

The Wandsworth, Camberwell, and Kent-road traveller can tell of drifts, wreaths, avalanches, and Alpine

dangers. The river is impassable, and the ox roasted whole therupon may not impossibly be roasted there again. The mails of Thursday were stopped, and the great metropolitan highways travelled by forlorn-hope omnibus alone. Such a state of weather is something to be proud of; such a state of weather is something to talk of; and the ingratitudo of the nation is reproved.

To this auspicious state of things, however, there is a severe side; and to this we most gravely and sorrowfully advert. There is a large class of our community whose business rarely is to talk—very decided to do. How to do is their great question, and "something to do" their great want. How to do is how to live; and something to do, something to eat. For these this hard and severe winter is severe upon cupboards, and the stoppage of the Thames puts their fires out. To do is a problem in which misery is *x*, an unknown quantity, at this bitter season. Winter is a time always dreaded by the poor; frost, however agreeable to the skater, is no friend to those whose only occupation then may be to strap the skates of the skater, and look on. When food and fuel are at their cheapest, and the winds of January most bland to the poorly clad, winter is a season of trouble to the poor, and its icicles, in the shape of debts, hang long and heavy upon the fruits of their spring; how, then, is it with them now, with January winds far from bland, and food and fuel at the dearest? It is true that the past year was marked by a prosperity almost if not quite unparalleled in the history of this prosperous empire; a prosperity marked not only in counting-houses, but in cottages and the general condition of the poor. It was eminently a *contented* year; as such, and if it were only followed by a series of such, it would have written its effect not only in the outward condition, but the inward and moral elevation of the masses; and on this account, too, we deplore the untoward prospect which the opening year affords. Eighteen

hundred and fifty-three was a peaceable year, and had an account at the savings' bank; Eighteen hundred and fifty-four promises to be a warlike year, with every prospect of keeping its promise faithfully; more than that, it opens with an inclemency that is fatal to the employment of thousands of the working-classes, while imposing additional weight to the necessities on all—on those that need help, and those who *might* help those that need; and with the mere necessities of existence at almost famine prices. What Eighteen hundred and fifty-three saved, therefore, we are afraid Eighteen hundred and fifty-four has already spent; with its omens yet to be fulfilled.

But sorry as we must be for all this, as every man must be, we scarcely less regret the folly, if it deserve a harsher designation, which has led the working-people voluntarily to increase their difficulties, and thus give occasion for much uncharitable feeling. We are of course understood to allude to "strikes" and the unhappy "labour question." Into this question we have forborne to launch in detail, because, while it is one of those which no argument but such as experience furnishes can ever settle, it is also a question which, however it might be decided by the rule of right, is sure to terminate in one result. It is of little use to cavil upon the justice of a necessity, so long as it remains a necessity; and while it is quite clear that the mechanic has a right to dispose as he chooses of his only capital, labour, it is equally evident that the price of labour must always be estimated by its demand, like every other commodity. It seems hard, and it is hard, that the whole exertions and use of a man's life should sometimes be purchasable at just such a sum as may enable him to sustain those exertions; but it still remains an inevitable condition of affairs, which at any rate can never be removed, and in its real effects must be greatly aggravated, by the system of "strikes."

It is a system which has inflicted much needless misery, and at the same time is imminently dangerous to society and the general weal.

It is a system that shuts bread from the cupboards of the thousands concerned in it, as irrevocably as famine; it imposes a tax upon other thousands who take from their means



ODESSA, FROM AN AUTHENTIC SKETCH.

to support it, greater than did the corn-laws; and no one finds the lost loaves or can be benefited by the tax. "We do hope that, while the severity of the weather will bring their folly nearer to the hearts of those concerned, it will bring it nearer to their comprehension and its own termination.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

RUSSIA AND TURKEY.

All postal communication being stopped by the state of the weather, our foreign intelligence is necessarily delayed. The following is the sum of present information:—

Advised from Constantinople of the 19th ult. state that the Sultan had ordered the recruiting of Christian volunteers to cease. The British envoy is said to have resumed diplomatic relations with Persia. Rough weather had forced a Russian war-cutter into the Bosphorus. The English fleet had received reinforcements.

The same advice states that the Grand Council had given the Ministers authority to enter upon peace negotiations, subject to the following conditions:—"That the Danubian Principalities be evacuated. That the independence and integrity of the Ottoman Empire and the Sovereignty of the Sultan be perfectly secured. That the Sultan consents to a congress in a neutral town, the termination of the treaties, and to reforms tending to the removal of the discrimination of the Christians."

Beschil Pacha, now supported by Haid Pacha in the Council, is in favour of peace, which the Sultan also desires.

On the evening of the 21st 2,500 Ottomans attempted a riot. They pretended that the fundamental law (scheriat) was violated by the resolutions of the Porte. English and French steamers were called to Constantinople; but the affair proved only a kind of stormy remonstrance, put down without loss of blood.

Constantinopolis advises of the 22nd announced a second disturbance. The students, excited by some of the Ulemas, had assembled to present a petition against the resolution taken by the Government. For a moment disturbances were frequent, but an outbreak was prevented. 300 or 400 students were arrested.

The English and French Cabinets have already had examinations made of the situation of Sebastianopol, for the purpose possibly of attacking it, but the reports sent in agree in affirming that it is out of reach of attack by sea, though not by land. To reach the town a channel of great length, upwards of three miles, it is said, must be passed up, the sides of which are protected by a most formidable artillery. If, therefore, anything is to be attempted against Sebastianopol, it must be by land, which would imply an invasion of the Crimea.

A private letter from Teflis, of the 2nd ult., announces that Prince Woronow had received despatches from St. Petersburg, apprising him that a reinforcement of eighty pieces of artillery had been forwarded to him, with directions to carry on the war in Asia with the greatest activity.

The Russians have been sent to Servia; one guarantees all the Servian privileges, the other declares all the Russo-Servian treaties null and void, but Servia may demand the protection of all the Powers.

The Threo-Asiatic army is in a state of dissolution. Selim Pasha, or General Guyon, is said to have been killed by his own troops; such was a vague rumour afloat at Batoum.

All perfectly quiet at Bucharest; the vast quantity of snow rendering operations impossible.

The *Fremden-Blatt* published advices from Bucharest of the 29th December, to the effect that the Turks have taken Karakal by storm, after an obstinate battle. This requires confirmation.

Russia is said to be as much excited against Austria as against England and France.

Kars is in the hands of the Russians.

The English steamer Caravas was at Marseilles on the 1st, from Constantinople, which she left on the 25th of December. She brought despatches for the French and English Governments, but they announce little more than the conditional acceptance by the Porte of the last proposition of the Conference at Vienna.

The fleets were still moored in the Bosphorus.

The steam corvette Caton had sailed from Toulon on the 1st, to join the squadron in the Levant under Admiral Hamelin.

The enthusiasm of the Turks and Tartars of the Dobrudscha is as great as ever, and even 400 well-armed Lipovans (a Russian sect who, in consequence of the persecution to which it was exposed, in 1770, in the Dobrudscha, had been compelled to leave their native land, and had migrated towards the Christians as during this war), but the requisitions for the troops fall heavily on the agriculturist, whether Christian or Mahomedan.

Almost all the officers of the Wallachian militia are now Russians. Eighteen hospitals have been established at Brailov, but only two of them are already filled, "the other sixteen are intended for the future," and this is not considered any very convincing proof of the sincerity of the peaceful professions of the Russian Government. The garrisons of Brailov and Galatz may amount to about 10,000 men. The news from the Danube is of little importance, and extremely contradictory.

The principal and most interesting fact is that any movement made by the Christians in the interior leads to a strict administration of justice, and that the harshest of their villages, which is a sanctuary recognised by law for married Turkish women and girls who have fled from their husbands and parents, 4000 regular troops and 2000 Redifs are quartered.

During the campaign the women of Madara have supplied the army with 10,000 shirts, handkerchiefs, and lint; and, as a reward for their humane and patriotic exertions, the Sultan has ordered silk dresses and a letter of commendation to be sent them. Intrenchments have been thrown up around Varna, and the port is protected by four strand batteries.

Silistria, where there were unimportant skirmishes on the 15th, 16th, and 17th, has a garrison of 12,000 men.

The Turks have failed in their endeavour to have their transports vessels pass the port of Silistria, as their attempts to load to heavy fire from the British batteries. It is affirmed that the Russians are preparing to attack Kalafat, which they will hardly attempt, anything to the contrary before all other Osten Sachen's troops are quartered.

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Not only Bucharest, but also Buleustoff, is being entrenched. There is an entrenched camp in front of this last place.

Osmar Pacha, who has undergone two operations (probably two amputations), is in extreme danger. The Russians aver that all the utensils worn by the prisoners taken at Sinope have the French Government stamp.

Further orders have been sent by the Porte to Asia to raise fresh troops for the Caucasian army, as the conduct of the French and English Ministers has led it to believe that the fleets will not enter the Black Sea until the Russians have on all points victoriously assumed the offensive.

Captain Slade has drawn up a memorial relative to the operations of the fleets in the Black Sea, which he will present to the representatives of the Western Powers.

A private letter from St. Petersburg gives the following reasons for the choice made by the Emperor of General Yermoloff for the command of the Persian army. The writer says that the general who has the command on the unemployed list since the year 1842, is the best officer in the entire Russian army. He is a chief and idol of the "Mazavite party, and the most determined enemy of the German party. The Czar, in choosing General Yermoloff, wished to impress a character radically Myscopic on Russian influence in Persia, and to render the war more national. He was moreover preferred to Prince Woronoff on account of the English sympathies of the latter, and for that reason a mission against British India could not be confided to him. It is reported that Prince Woronoff will shortly be replaced by General Yermoloff.

A letter from Odessa of the 14th ult. announces that the camp formed

towards the end of the summer at Vosnesensk, at about five leagues from that town, has been raised, on account of the extreme severity of the season.

A Russian staff-officer asserts that the greater part of the artillerymen in Aladi Pasha's army are foreigners, "and, consequently, no quarter is given by our soldiers to either officers or men belonging to that army who may fall into their hands." Nothing whatever of importance has recently occurred along the whole line of the Danube, but that the river is now in full flood. It is said that even at this moment there are 32,000 men. The available strength of the Russians in the two Principalities, and in that part of Bessarabia lying between Reni and the island of Tschetatz, is estimated at 105,000 men.

A letter from Kalisch, dated December 22nd, says that there is no indication of the army in Poland having received orders to march towards the theatre of war.

FRANCE.

Eastern affairs are still, of course, the leading topics of debate in Paris; and of the probability, or rather the certainty of war, there are very few in that capital who doubt. Those who were hitherto most incredulous on the point have given up all idea of peace being maintained.

The only persons who appear to anticipate with pleasure and with confidence the future triumphs of Russia, and the humiliation of their own Government and of its present ally and friend, are the Fusionists; for on those triumphs is fixed their best hope of the restoration of the Bonapartes. It is stated positively in some political circles that the most flattering offers have been made to the Emperor of France, or rather to Louis Philippe, of the French, to induce him to break off the alliance with England. It is known that the "fusion" owes the sort of success it has met with to the influence of the Emperor of Russia; but if what is now said can be depended upon, the Emperor of Russia, fresh from his successful essay at conciliation, is ready to throw the Bourbons, older and younger, overboard, and whilst the "fusion" and all its anticipated consequences to the winds; if Louis Napoleon will consent, not to co-operate actively with him, but to become neutral in his quarrel with Turkey, and, as all leave England in the lurch.

It is gravely asserted that a very busy day in the army, since the "fusion" to create a spirit of insubordination against the Government, and in favour of the Prince of Orleans; that frequent reports are addressed by those agents to the family in England, and by them transmitted to an illustrious person, who communicates them to the Government; that the healths of the Princes of Orleans were given at an assemblage of officers of a regiment in the division commanded by a well-known General in France; that the General in question has been asked by his superiors as to the truth of such a fact having taken place, but of which he declared he had no knowledge; but that he is accordingly to be removed from his post. To this are added other details, tending to show the existence of an extensive plot to gain over the army. It is also stated that certain, printed in large type, have been distributed in the departments by persons of mysterious hands, with the words, "Le Prince de Paris est un empereur de paix."

At the moment of the "fusion," it is said, to take place, there was a grand ball at the Princess Mathilde's, to usher in the new year. The Emperor and Empress, who were present, showed great attention to the Ministers of Russia and Austria, and the Empress was graciously pleased to dance with both M. Hubner and M. de Kisseff. This latter also had the honour of waltzing with the Princess Mathilde.

At the reception on Sunday at the Tuilleries, the Emperor, it was remarked, showed marked attention to M. de Kisseff. His Majesty made a point of saying to the young general, "polite to each member of the diplomatic corps," and his place in the representative of Russia was, "L'Empereur, Monsieur l'Amiral-d'Amirauté, que l'année 1854 sera bonne pour nous." The evening before there was a grand ball at the Princess Mathilde's, to usher in the new year. The Emperor and Empress, who were present, showed great attention to the Ministers of Russia and Austria, and the Empress was graciously pleased to dance with both M. Hubner and M. de Kisseff. This latter also had the honour of waltzing with the Princess Mathilde.

It is affirmed in well-informed circles that the Hungarian refugees are quietly making preparations to take part in the coming struggle, and so it is said that Austria should declare openly in favour of Russia, or even manifest any symptoms of concurrence with that power. General Klappa is already at Constantinople, and is to be shortly joined by several officers of the Hungarian army.

Colonel Czantowski, nephew of Prince Czartoryski, will leave Paris on the 5th instant for Constantinople.

Rumours have been again in circulation of an intended modification of the French Ministry, taking its origin in the difference of views which are known to exist amongst the present members of the Cabinet relative to the question of peace or war.

Notwithstanding the severe weather which prevailed in Paris last week, the streets were never more crowded with pedestrians visiting the shops and booths where New Year's presents of every description were laid out to tempt purchasers. In general, the shoppes had no cause to complain, although low-priced articles were chiefly in demand.

The non-arrival of the English newspapers, and the state of the English funds, produced a complete stagnation on the Bourse.

AUSTRIA.

It is acknowledged, even at Vienna, that the peace of Europe is now seriously menaced. No one has any positive knowledge of what has recently been resolved on by the English and French Governments, but it is generally felt that the temporising system is about to be relinquished. It is thought highly probable that, if the Porte persists in refusing to treat until the Principalities have been evacuated, the Russian will undertake the following combined movements:—General Lenders will force the passage of the river at or near Matsch, Prince Gortchakoff will attack Rischenthal, and General Gortchakoff dislodge the Turks from Kalafat.

The army of the Russian army, which may be about 45,000 strong, with its headquarters at Bucharest, is under the immediate command of Prince Gortchakoff, who has a very large staff of general officers. General Auer, who commands the right wing, which may consist of some 25,000 men, is now at Krajowa.

According to the German papers, the Austrian Budget for 1854 will show a deficit of 45,000,000 florins (45,500,000) on the ordinary service, and 50,000,000 florins (25,000,000) on the extraordinary—a result that may lead to a serious catastrophe, and fully accounts for the refusal of the eminent bankers at home and abroad to enter on a contract for a new loan with the Austrian Government.

PRUSSIA.

Fresh arrests, effected during the last few days, have proved that the conspiracy of last March was more extensive than had been supposed. Sentence on the prisoners of that period is still deferred; one of them has been confined for nine months; another of them, Dr. Lindersdorf, is suffering under mental alienation.

The King of Prussia has ordered that mention shall be made in the registers of the Evangelical Church of Christians dwelling among the infidels, and a special form of prayer has been ordered to be inserted.

The German journals announce that the Federal Diet of Frankfurt has been gravely occupied at this critical moment with discussing an invention for the fabrication of artificial coffee.

DENMARK AND SWEDEN.

The *Aftonbladet* announces, on authority, that the Secret Committee of the Swedish Diet has decided on strict neutrality in case of war.

A treaty has been concluded with Denmark for a common course of operations by sea.

ITALY.

We read in the *Piedmontese Gazette* of the 30th ult.:—

The accusers received their sentence from Aosta, and were reassured. The Bishop, the Abbot, and the Mayor, M. Cratini, went out to meet the burgesses, and induced them to lay down their arms. The National Guard, the citizens, and a few veteran soldiers maintained order and tranquillity in the town. The Intendant-General has entered Aosta with the troops, and the revolt may be regarded as appeased.

According to the latest intelligence from Aosta, two small bands of insurgents still traversed the mountains, closely followed by the troops.

The *Voce della Libertà* states that the insurgent bands in the Valley of Aosta had simultaneously appeared on three points—at St. Martin, Verez, and Bard, and that the movement had extended to the valleys of Locarno and Pont. According to the *Arona*, the insurgents who invaded St. Martin, Pont, Domodossola, and the surrounding districts, Val Cossella, Brossa, and other neighbouring localities. There are, in all, about 3000 men, armed with rifles and swords, and seemed anxious to cross over into Savoy. They cried, "Long live the King! Down with the Constitution! Maize at three livres!"

The Intendant of Ivrea called out in pursuit of them, at the head of 300 National Guards and the pupils of the military school. The riflemen of Turin had also been marched against the insurgents.

SPAIN.

Our accounts from Madrid are of the 28th ult.

The position of the Queen was as satisfactory as possible. Her Majesty's confinement was expected to take place between the 6th and the 8th of January.

The Queen of Parma was to arrive in the beginning of the year, on a visit to the royal family.

The President of the Council has completely recovered from his late indisposition.

The wound of the Marquis de Turgot was beginning to heal, but the pain in his leg has not entirely subsided.

The *Faro de Vigo* announces that an English squadron, intended for the Tagus, was expected that port, and that an English frigate was to remain stationed at Vigo.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The mail-packet *Brasphous* arrived at Plymouth on Monday. Within the Cape colony everything was peaceful and progressive. In the Orange River Sovereignty Sir George Clerk proceeds steadily in maturing arrangements for the withdrawal of British authority from the north side of the river. The election for the Legislative Council was to commence on the 9th of January. The copper-mines on the Orange River appear to be productive, 200 tons of ore were on the beach ready for shipment. Great inconvenience is experienced in consequence of the desertion of seamen.

AMERICA.

By the arrival of the *Niagara* at Liverpool, we have advices from New York to the 20th, and from Boston to the 21st December. She passed the Europa steamer on the 2nd instant.

The proceedings in Congress were as follows:—

The Washington correspondent of the *New York Tribune* writes—"The Government is anxious about Sonora affairs. It telegraphed to New York to detain the California steamer, but it was received too late. The object was to order a naval officer to proceed to Panama and charter a steamer, procure a crew, and sail for the Gulf of California in search of the schooner having on board the Sonora filibusters, capture the men, and carry them to California for trial. It is feared that Santa Anna will capture and summarily execute them, which would inflame and make the filibusters of all Californians, and possibly produce another Mexican war. Government, though foiled in stopping the steamer, will find some way to prevent Santa Anna from shedding American blood."

A verdict of 10,000 dollars damages had been given against the *New York Herald* upon the management of the New York Italian Opera.

The speech made at the dinner given to John Mitchell, at the Broadway Theatre, New York, fill a large portion of the papers. The "Irish patriots" mastered in great force.

A section of the Canada Railroad, between Windsor and Chatham, had been opened. A body of men was being organised in New York to assist the Tucks. Damage to the extent of 128,000 dollars had been occasioned by a fire at Brooklyn. A serious riot had occurred on the Illinois Central Railroad, a party of Irish having murdered a contractor named Story. On the arrival of the Irishman, a serious conflict took place, resulting in the death of an Irishman.

Letters from Halifax report that the *Humberd* had gone to pieces—very little of the cargo was saved.

From Havana we have accounts to the 14th ult., at which date the yellow fever was prevailing. The new Captain-General was at inspecting the troops daily. His character for harshness is said to have created much terror among the troops and citizens. An order had been issued to all the capitains de Partidos to exercise the most rigid surveillance over all the inhabitants, and report the daily actions of the suspicious.

Another order had also been issued forbidding any Spaniard to leave the island under pain of death. Two Croclos had been arrested at Cardenas on a charge of treason. The British mail steamer had gone on freight 16,000 dollars. General Canedo left for Spain on the 11th.

A telegraphic message from New York, Dec. 22, evening, gives the following details:—

The Hermann has not arrived.

Advices from Washington state that the Naval Committee of the Senate had reported favourably on the immediate construction of six steam frigates.

An exciting debate on slavery had taken place in the House on a resolution voting a sword and thanks to Captain Ingraham for his conduct in the Sumatra affair. Gerrit Smith, New York abolition representative, introduced the subject.

The railroad from Philadelphia to Pennsylvania still continues. According to the last accounts, the citizens &c., headed by the mayor, were tearing up the track of the Western-road at the street crossings. At Fairview township the citizens were also tearing up the track. The bells were ringing, canons firing, and the greatest excitement prevailed.

The Legislature of Texas had passed a bill incorporating the Mississippi Railroad.

The steamer Zachary Taylor had exploded, killing three persons and scalding ten; and the steamer Marborough exploded at Charleston, killing thirteen persons.

The United States Government has despatched an officer to the Pacific to take measures to capture the Sonora invaders.

Advices from New Orleans deny that any Cuban expedition is fitting out.

Advices from St. Domingo report a difficulty between the Government and a French war steamer. The French wish Santa Anna to dismiss the Cabinet, and to appoint one to suit French interests. Great excitement in St. Domingo city in consequence.

The *WAGES MOVEMENT*.—The predictions of the delegates have been fully realised by the largely-increased amount received from the various districts at the meeting of the central committee, held on Sunday in the Congress Hall in Preston. It had been intimated that the income of the weavers' committee would last week reach £3,000; the fund placed at their disposal on Monday actually exceeded £3,200. This augmented income enables the committee to advance the pay of the unemployed weavers from 4s to 5s, 6s, 7s, per head, end to receive a balance in hand. The other classes of operatives are to receive a proportionate addition to their weekly pay. All the districts sent in enlarged subscriptions; and the chief contributors were the people of Blackburn, who forwarded £1,000. The "new year's gift" (as the increase of pay is designated) afforded matter for congratulation to the speakers at an open-air meeting held in the Orchard at noon.

IRELAND.

EXTRAORDINARY CASE OF POISONING.

The town and neighbourhood of Roscrea was thrown into the greatest consternation on Christmas-day, during divine service, by intelligence having been communicated to the police that several families had been poisoned by having eaten stale-meal bread at breakfast. Medical assistance was immediately rendered the unfortunate sufferers, when it was ascertained that they laboured, to an intense degree, under the violent symptoms produced by the seeds (flour) of the headed Dame's rye grass, commonly called rye, which was mixed with the whole-meal. Over thirty persons received medical aid, and presented the following symptoms, as from intoxication:—Staggering about, giddiness, violent tremors, and convulsions, particularly of the hands, and, in some cases, observed in *delirium tremens*, but of much greater intensity—the patients requesting those about them to hold them, and experiencing great ease from this assistance being given them—greatly impaired vision, everything appearing quite green to the sufferer, coldness of the skin, particularly of the hands and feet, great prostration of strength, and in several cases vomiting. The treatment adopted consisted in emetics of sulphate of zinc, which in some cases did not act till a stimulant was given of volatile aromatic spirit of ammonia in camphor mixture; then they acted freely, showing that paralysis of the stomach was to a certain degree produced by the *Lolium Temulentum*, or rye. After the free and full action of the emetics, stimulants were administered, which consisted of honey and water, and volatile aromatic spirit of ammonia with camphor. Camphor oil was also given, and food was given to all, and all the sufferers were found convalescent, but not delirious. Under similar circumstances, emetics of mustard might be found more suitable, as it acts both as an emetic and stimulant. It is said, if the bread is eaten when quite cold, it will not produce the above severa symptoms. Each seed has a long tail, which cannot be removed by any machinery that has yet been devised, and it will consequently be found mixed up with the bread. The bread that remained, when examined, was found very heavy, close, and soupy; some of it was made with soda, and some with plain water. This did not make any difference in the symptoms, which were the same in both cases.

DOUBLE MURDER.

The *Wexford Independent* has the following account of an atrocious case of double murder committed in the quiet and orderly county of Wexford, and the sole motive for which, it would appear, was robbery:—"The unfortunate occurrence took place early on the night of Friday, the 23rd of December, and the victims were Thomas Ball and his wife, who resided in a small cabin on the roadside at Rylands, near Clogham, in the barony of Scarrawas. They were dealers in apples, oats, and other small commodities, and invariably kept a stand in Newburyton on Saturdays. The dreadful fate of the unhappy couple was not known until the afternoon of Saturday, when a man named Curran, brother to the woman, missing for some time, went to the cabin, and the door, when he knocked, was to no response. He then joined the door shut, and all silent. He then went to another relative, and having knocked at the cabin and raised the door off its hinges, when the appalling spectacle of the lifeless bodies of the man and wife, their heads frightfully mangled, met their sight, the heads literally beaten to atoms. The weapons used by the murderers (for there was evidently more than one engaged in the horrid brutality) were a spade, a pair of tongs, and a blunt billhook, which belonged to the house, and were found in it covered with blood. The spade appears to have been the instrument with which the man's skull was first cloven, and, breaking, the hands were then often used. The woman was most dreadfully battered about the head. The object of the murderers was to possess themselves of the cabin, for it was well known to have, and which his wife wore, in the back of her neck. That they gained their end, is not certain, for the broken spade was still round her neck. They also ransacked the house, for in a broken box in the bed-room, the only one in the cabin, a shirt stained by the bloody hand of one of the murderers was found. The murders were perpetrated at an early hour, before the couple had retired to bed, perhaps just as they were preparing, for Ball had his shoes off, and the wife her cap. About nine o'clock a neighbour had seen them at their fire, the wife plucking a goose, which was found on the table, as if laid aside when finished. The murderers on going away locked the door, so that the cabin being closed so long in the day did not create any suspicion in neighbours or passers-by, the owners being supposed to be, as usual, at market. Mr. Curran went to inquire about their absence. The Lord Lieutenant has offered a reward of £100 for the discovery of the perpetrators of these brutal murders."

SCOTLAND.

THE SCOTCH COAL MINERS.

A meeting of the coal miners of Fife has been held at Crossgates, to petition Parliament for an extra hours' labour bill, and for an extension to Scotland of the law of coroners' inquests as in England, connected with coal workings.

PIT EXPLOSION, AND LOSS OF LIFE.

Early on Friday week an explosion of fire-damp took place at a coal-pit, Hambleton, near Rockvale. It appears that the duty of examining the pit to see that it was safe for the workmen before their going down to work rested for a long time with William Dick, the foreman of the pit. In doing this a Davy lamp is used. On Friday morning, however, shortly before six o'clock, a number of the workers went down, headed by William Dick, who appears to have been sent to make his accustomed examination, bearing with him a common open lamp, and followed by the others. There being a quantity of foul air in the pit, an immediate explosion took place, killing a man named Andrew Buchanan on the spot, and frightfully injuring Dick and the other three men, named James Devlin, Hugh Neil, and John Ralston. Dick died in the course of the forenoon, and little hopes are entertained of the recovery of the other men.

THE LATE EXTRAORDINARY ROBBERY IN GLASGOW.

At the Glasgow Circuit Court on Thursday week, George Jackson was charged with having, on the morning of Sunday, the 1st of October last, with one or more accomplices, broken into the shop of Mr. Rait, goldsmith and jeweller, Buchanan-street, Glasgow, and stolen various jewellery to the amount of nearly £3000. The panel pleaded not guilty. The panel obtained access to the premises referred to by the use of false keys to the premises of Messrs. Campbell and Co., warehousemen, when he proposed to remove, by a crowbar, a heartstone within the warehouse, effected by opening through the roof of Mr. Rait's premises, descended by a rope-ladder, and took away property to the value of the amount above stated. The panel was defended by Mr. Logan. During the proceedings, one of the juriesmen was taken ill, and the rest had to be despatched against the prisoner, *pro loco temporis*, but he was immediately apprehended on a new warrant, and will, in all likelihood, be tried in Edinburgh.

PROVINCIAL NEWS.

A REFRACTORY SEAMAN.—At the Liverpool Police-court, Robert Taylor, a seaman, was charged with an assault on Captain Barnes, of the ship *Dryad*. The *Dryad* sailed hence for Calais, and on arriving at that port the master, who refused to work during the voyage, was put in prison for several days, by the advice of the British Consul. When the ship was about to sail, he was brought on board again, when he took up a large carving-knife, and threatened to stab the captain, who, in his defence, presented a pistol at him. The prisoner on this threw down the knife, and was taken down below in irons. The next day the ship was

discovered to be on fire in the part where the prisoner lay. The prisoner was sent to gaol for three months, with hard labour.

THE STIPENDIARY MAGISTRATE QUESTION AT BIRMINGHAM.—On Tuesday the question of applying to Government for the appointment of a stipendiary magistrate for the borough of Birmingham was brought under the consideration of the town-council; and, after a discussion of six hours, the motion was negatived by a majority against it of twenty-seven to twenty-one.

CONFESSION OF MURDER.—A very painful sensation has been excited in the neighbourhood of Plymouth by the confession of a private in the 57th Regiment, Benjamin McDonnell, that he had a short time since murdered a young woman named Theresa Rundle, a native of Lancashire, who, it was said, had accompanied the regiment on its removal from Ireland to Plymouth. Upon information to this effect he was arrested at the Devonport barracks, and, after an interview with McDonnell, in the presence of the chief warden, who heard his voluntary confession of his guilt. Mr. Giffard having taken the man's statement, next proceeded to trace the woman to her last place of abode, in the neighbourhood of Stonehouse-lane, but up to this time nothing conclusive has been elicited; and, from the strange conduct of the prisoner, there is good reason to believe that he is labouring under some hallucination of intellect. The prisoner, in his statement, speaks of an old castle, by which he is supposed to mean Roborough Rock, a prominent object, well known on the high road between the town and Tavistock; but no discovery of any body in the spot indicated has yet been made.

DRUGS FROM CHARCOAL.—On Saturday, Mr. Churchill, the borough coroner, held an inquest at the Colchester Union-house upon the bodies of two children, aged respectively ten and seven years, whose deaths were caused by the use of a charcoal stove. An inquest of the same character occurred last week to the labourer named Bickford, at Chalgrove, in Devonshire.

FARMERS FIRE THEIR STACKS.—On the 10th of November last, a fire broke out on the premises of Mr. Charles Bates, of Enneth, near Wishew, and two wheat stacks were consumed. Subsequent inquiries led to the apprehension of Bates, and he was taken before the petty sessions at Terrington. Thomas Eescott said he got his supper about half-past seven o'clock on the 10th of November in the keeping-room; his master was sitting by the fire; he had his heavy boots and buskins on, a circumstance which he had never before noticed since he had lived with Mr. Bates. When he had got his supper, he went to turn the horses out; it was then about a quarter to eight o'clock. He had to go across a piece of ground at the back of the farm; when he had gone so far, he was returning, he observed a light on the stacks, and thought it came from a big lamp on the road. When he got into the straw yard, he heard the gate snap that leads from the road to the premises; he then saw a person, and said, "Is that you, master?" He replied "Yes." Witness said, "The stacks are on fire." Mr. Bates said, "Where?" and he replied, "Where you have just passed." His master hastened into the house, and witness followed him, and heard his mistress say, "I hope you have not done it, my dear." His master said, "I have been with John" (meaning witness), who replied, "No, you have not been with me; I only met you a half minute ago." Heard his mistress ask her master whether she should clear the house; he said there was no danger. Soon afterwards Mr. Sharpe came up, and sent him (witness) to Wishew for the fire-engine. His master did not tell him to go, but he did, and gave him a shilling. Some days after he and his master were walking with him, and he had picked up a paper and read it to him, and said, "Now, master, what you have said, can't say any more; and if you don't say any more than you have said, they can't get hold of you." Elizabeth Diggle corroborated the last witness. He was remanded for a fortnight, but admitted to bail, himself in £200, and two sureties in £100 each.

THE LATE GAROTTED MURDER AT BARNESLEY.—The adjourned inquest touching the death of Thomas Husband, the man who was found dead on the Barnsley and Pontefract turnpike-road on Sunday evening week, was resumed on Monday. The jury, after a long deliberation, returned the following open verdict:—That the deceased, Thomas Husband, was found dead, but that there is not sufficient evidence to show how he came to his death."

THE "NOBLE BRITISH ART."—On Wednesday, the 28th ult., two excavators, named Thomas Kay and John Clarke, were drinking at the Crown inn, Norwich, in company with other labourers. A dispute took place as to whether one was to be the man, and, to decide the dispute, the two agreed that they should dig. After six o'clock in the evening they got into a room at the Crown inn, with each shovel, and a third person to see fair play, and to stand by the door. After the combatants had fought five rounds, a blow from Clarke struck Kay on the throat, and it is supposed injured his windpipe, for he dropped upon the floor, and died in a few minutes. Clarke, and two of the men who were present, are in custody; the other has escaped.

ACCIDENT AT THE SOUTHAMPTON DOCKS.—On Tuesday morning, between five and six o'clock, the various persons in and about the vicinity of the docks were somewhat startled by a loud crashing noise, and upon discovery it was found to be caused by the falling of the immense "sleens" (or, in plainer terms, "crane"), which were erected at the south side of the docks for the purpose of raising boilers in and out of ships, &c., and on dead weight. The exact cause of the accident has not yet been satisfactorily ascertained, but it is conjectured that the foundation has not been sufficiently strong to bear its immense weight. In its fall it carried away a very large portion of the dock wall adjacent; and had it not happened that the shears fell inland, and not into the dock, there is little doubt but that the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamer *Madras*, which has been undergoing repair for some time past, and which is placed directly beneath them, must have been partially, if not wholly destroyed, as well perhaps as some lives have been sacrificed. The "sleens" was erected some few years ago by the Dock Company, at an expense of £1000, and from their now damaged appearance there is no doubt that they will be replaced by new ones, which will incur an expense of some few thousand pounds. The noise of the crash was heard for more than a mile distant.

EARFUL GAS EXPLOSIONS.—On Wednesday morning, about eight o'clock, an explosion of gas took place in the house of Mrs. Kidd, Bridgeman, of so violent a character as almost completely to destroy the building and the furniture it contained. The roof of the house, which is but one storey, and consisting of two rooms, is in several places entirely driven out. The front door was also burst open. The posts of a mahogany bedstead have been snapped asunder, and of an eight-o'clock bed, but a small remnant of the case remains. As showing too, the immense power of the exploded gas, it may be noticed that the clothes-chest of the servant-girl was raised from the floor, and driven to the top of the wall the roof was blown up. With the exception of Mrs. Kidd, who was struck upon the head and face by the falling lath and timber, and who had out of her legs from the ankylosis knew much pain, and the whole inmates miraculously escaped. *Death Counter.*

BEARED POLICE.—The Ipswich Borough police-officers are to be allowed to wear mustaches and beards. They preferred a report to the Watch Committee for permission to dispense with the razor, which was readily granted. Some of the Committee expressed their intention, it is said, of adopting the mustache themselves.

WHO WILL CUT THE TIGER'S NAILS?—Mr. Vallance appeared at the Hall Police-court on Friday week, and called the attention of the sitting magistrates to the miserable condition of the tiger at the Hall Geological Gardens. He stated that it had for some time suffered much in consequence of its nails growing and cutting its flesh, the poor animal being almost unable to put its feet to the ground. He understood it was considered dangerous to do anything to the nails, but he, nevertheless, thought it a proper case for investigation by the magistrates, and he

wished to know whom he could summon? Mr. McManus suggested that chloroform should be administered to the animal, under the influence of which he thought the nails could be cut without danger. The magistrates said they had no power to interfere in the matter.

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

ROYAL ORTHOPEDIC HOSPITAL.—The committee of this hospital have determined on the erection of a more commodious building; and towards raising the necessary funds the Right Hon. Lord Robert Grosvenor, M.P., has consented to preside over a public festival in March next. It is estimated that about £2000 will be required. Many handsome sums have already been contributed; and it is hoped that they will be liberally followed, so that the benevolent objects of the committee may be carried out with the least possible delay.

ACCIDENT AT THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.—On Tuesday morning a serious accident occurred to Thomas Morton, at the new Houses of Parliament. He was engaged outside the building, when he slipped on some snow, and fell through a skylight a depth of twenty feet. He was picked up in a state of insensibility, and conveyed to Westminster Hospital, where not the slightest hopes are entertained of his recovery.

HEALTH OF LONDON DURING THE WEEK.—The deaths in London in the week that ended last Saturday amounted to 1855. Coroners' cases, which have been accumulating for some time, and are now registered at the end of the quarter in unusual number, have partly contributed to produce the excess. The mortality has been raised principally by the severity of the weather. In the ten corresponding weeks of the years 1843-52, the average number of deaths was 1160, which, if raised to the same number as in the present year, would give 1875. There is an excess in the number actually registered above the calculated average of 380. The deaths arising from disease of the respiratory organs rose last week to 347, while the corrected average for corresponding weeks is 235; to bronchitis 171 are attributed; to pneumonia, 113; to whooping-cough, 65. Ten deaths from cholera were registered in the week.

PACCHIALI NEGLECT.—On Tuesday Mr. Wm. Baker resumed an inquiry respecting the death of John Oliver, aged sixty-five years, who was found perfectly naked, lying on the floor of a wretched hovel, situated at 21, Peter's-court, Cartwright-street. It appeared from the evidence that on Tuesday last he declared that he was starving. His case was represented to the assistant master of Whitechapel Union, who, in consequence, waited on Mr. Wm. Brooks, the relieving officer, in order to obtain his removal into the workhouse. He was unable to give an order until the deceased had been visited by the medical officer, and he left an order to that effect at his surgery. It was not called for; and it is supposed that from that time till Thursday afternoon, when he was found dead, he had not been seen by any medical officer. The deceased was found dead on the floor, a garment apparently having died of starvation, want, and privation; and that the coroner be requested to write to the board of guardians of the Whitechapel Union, directing their attention to the necessity of a clear and distinct method of carrying into effect the orders of the medical officers of the union.

REMOVAL OF CITY CHURCHES.—The Bishop of London has approved of a plan which has been submitted to him by the Rev. Charles Hume, M.A., Rector of St. Michael's, Wood-street, for removing some of the churches in the City, with a view to a supply of some of the suburbs. The reverend gentleman states that a small number of the City churches have considerably and encouraging congregations, two or three of them amounting to nearly 300. On the other hand, the attendance at some falls below sixteen; and there are many at which it does not amount to fifty; the average number being only thirty-three. While, on the other hand, the churches in the City have been shown, by a return made to the House of Commons by the sub-division of parish commissioners, that no fewer than fifty-eight new churches are required in the diocese of London. Of this number forty-nine are required for the metropolitan district and immediate suburbs, and nine for districts and districts within eight miles of St. Paul's. Mr. Hume contends that less than twenty churches would meet the wants of the population resident within the City of London Union, and, consequently, at least thirty-eight churches might be advantageously taken down and rebuilt in such other parts of the metropolis and its environs as are deficient in church accommodation.

EXHIBITION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY.—On Tuesday a private view of the photographs and daguerreotypes of this society was given at the gallery of the Society of British Artists in Suffolk-street, Pall-mall. Mr. Mayall and Prof. Robertson graced the exhibition with their presence, and there were about 1500 persons present, and the number of works assembled. Both the Queen and the Prince regent paid a visit to the distinguished amateurs in this new art, and they evinced a curiosity which proved it something more than a state visit. After staying about an hour, they expressed their great gratification at perceiving the rapid improvements made in the processes. It is quite unnecessary, were it possible, to note individually the productions here shown. Amongst such a vast variety of works it is almost impossible to fix upon any to particularise. Those by the collodion process seem most numerous, and appear to be the most pleasing. Altogether, indeed, this may be pronounced to be one of the most interesting exhibitions of the season.

THE LONDON DOCKS.—At the half-yearly meeting of the London Dock Company, held on Tuesday, John Cattley, Esq., in the chair, Mr. Powell, the chief engineer, reported the directors, from whom it appears that the number of ships which entered the docks within the six months to the 30th of November last, was 649, measuring 29,248 tons; for the corresponding period of 1853 the number was 711, measuring 293,551 tons. The amount earned was £250,000 7s. 2d.; and for the corresponding period of 1852, £235,899 10s. 4d. The expenditure was £151,875 17s. 11d.; and for the same period in 1853, £140,231 14s. 4d. The balance standing to the credit of the profit and loss was £26,749 18s. 10d. A dividend of 2½ per cent. for the half-year was recommended, and that a sum of £10,000 be appropriated towards the new works. The royal assent had been given to the new bill, and arrangements had been made for the purchase of the lands. The chairman, having briefly remarked on the favourable condition of the company's affairs, the report was adopted unanimously.

DAIRY ROBBERY.—On Wednesday information was given of a daring robbery committed at the old beer-house, sign of the Hope, situated directly opposite the door of the Warwick-street Police-court. A number of persons, who were known as the "old bairns" of the neighbourhood, had been observed hanging about the passages of the police-court, and two or three of them went over to the beer-house, and to the bagatelle-room upstairs, upon pretence of amusing themselves by playing a game. The result showed, however, that they contemplated a more serious game than the mere bagatelle, for it was afterwards discovered that, while some watched the motions of the persons in the bar, others of the party entered the landlord's bed-room with a skeleton key, ransacked the place, and carried off a silver watch, with gold chain, and a quantity of apparel, about £50 worth of property altogether. The rogues even ran away with the bed, and searched for other places, apparently in quest of more beds, and places, in which, however, they were disappointed.

MOSS FIRES.—A fire took place on Wednesday morning at the house of Mr. Belton, the Landowner, in the Old Paradise-street, Clerkenwell, a consequence of the difficulty in obtaining water the premises were burnt down, and the stock in trade, furni-ure, &c., destroyed. Mr. Belton was insured in the Phoenix Fire Office. The building of Mr. Jones, a dairyman, adjoining, and the furniture of some lodgers, were much injured. A fire occurred about the same time on the premises of Messrs. Hobbs and Co., patent lock-makers, Cheshire-street, the flames were extinguished before much damage was done. On Tuesday night a fire occurred at the house of Lord Normanton, Seymour-place, Clerkenwell, May-fair. The first and second floors of the house were much damaged, and considerable injury was done to the furniture.

SCENERY AND COSTUMES OF THE WORLD.

EGYPT.

OUR illustrations of the scenery and costumes of the world cannot be better introduced than by that narrow valley, watered by the boundless Nile, which reaches from Nubia to the Mediterranean Sea, lying between the great Lybian and the smaller Arabian deserts, and denominated Egypt. Its primeval history is necessarily lost in the abyss of time: its majestic temples, partly smothered in the annually-en-croaching dust, its gigantic monuments, and its ruined cities, speak of those earlier races of mankind of whom nothing is known by tradition; but every Christian, when his attention is called to this bright eastern clime, reverts at once to the dwelling of God's chosen people in that land for upwards of four hundred years, to the coming of that new King "who knew not Joseph," and to their departure from the land of bondage, having increased and multiplied to the extraordinary number of 600,000 men.

Of course, in such a circumscribed space as the present, it is impossible to enter into all the details of the early national-wealth of the Egyptians; but still a slight glance at their mythology and superstition may not be uninteresting to the general reader. The gods and goddesses are said to have governed Egypt for millions of years, the last of them being Osiris and Isis with Horus, their son. Osiris was the reputed builder of Thebes, "with the hundred gates;" he was the creative spirit who endowed Egypt with all good gifts; but on his returning from a distant expedition, he was slain by Typhon—the type of darkness and disorder—and became a deity, under the name of Serapis, whilst the rulership of the country passed into the hands of man. The first mortal king is said to have been Menes, who founded Memphis; and to him succeeded numerous dynasties, during which the oldest pyramids are thought to have been built, whilst the great labyrinth at Fayoum constructed; and then came the pastoral nomadic kings, with Joseph and Sesostris, the mightiest of all the Pharaohs. His empire extended throughout Abyssinia even to Assyria and Asia Minor. The erection of the rock-temple in Nubia

is ascribed to him; trade and agriculture flourished under his auspices, and Egypt is reported to have numbered 30,000 towns and cities. In the twenty-sixth dynasty we find tradition yielding to real history: intercourse with Greece had been established; sages, including Pythagoras and Solon, came to Egypt to study; and the kings were attended by an Ionian body-guard. The captain of this corps, having revolted during the reign of the great Psammetichus, passed over to the Persians, and induced the ambitious Cambyses to make an inroad, which led to a battle, where the Egyptian king was taken prisoner, and his only son, evidently put to death. The Persians who detested the weak and hook-nosed, spoliated and subjugated the country, did not, and mutilated the gigantic structures that adorned the land; but in their turn yielded to the conqueror Alexander the Macedonian, who built Alexandria, at the outlets of the Nile, in order to facilitate the traffic, which had then become important, between the eastern and the western world.

At his death and the partition of the Greek empire amongst his generals, Egypt fell to the share of Ptolemy, whose descendants ruled for 284 years, building the lighthouse at Alexandria, deemed one of the wonders of the world, and the Alexandrian library—afterwards burnt by Amru, Mahomet's chief lieutenant; but Julius Caesar placed Cleopatra on the throne; and after the defection of Mark Antony and the battle of Actium, Egypt became a Roman province. From this period all is clear. Egypt, abounding then in mineral wealth, and in species of animal produce, supplied the Imperial Rome with corn, and was adorned by the emperors with magnificent and useful buildings; Christianity obtained firm footing notwithstanding the cruel persecutions of Domitian; whilst numerous hermits inhabited the rocky caverns in the immediate vicinity of Thebes and the deserted temples of the gods. At the division of the Roman empire, Egypt was allotted to Byzantium. Then came the madness of the West, in the form of the Crusades; the establishment of the Mamelukes under the chivalrous Saladin, in 1517, and the Ottoman rule; down to the uprising of that extraordinary man, the renegade Albanian, Mehemet Ali; the grandfather of Abbas, the present Viceroy, who pays a yearly tribute, and acknowledges nominal fealty to the Porte.

The fertility of Egypt is rigidly confined to the banks of the river on each side of the sinuous Nile; the river is hemmed in, as it were, between two immense yellow sand-plains, and cultivation is limited to the green

strips that fringe its banks. If by any dire catastrophe the desert should advance and cover the river with its sand, Egypt would cease to be: the Nile is the main artery that holds the very life-blood of the land; its annual rising is awaited with the most intense anxiety, and prayers are offered to the gods that its waters may increase. In the middle of June, the wildest rejoicings take place on the Lyxet on Nuktab, the nights when a fructifying drop is believed to fall from heaven into the bosom of the stream; and towards the end of August the river has risen so high that the gates of the sluices of the grand canal at Cairo can be opened. An imposing ceremony ensues, with distinct distinction of religion: the "Bride of the Nile," a clay figure symbolic of the human race of bygone ages, and the "Sister of the river;" and the water passing through Cairo, is conducted by a thousand devices over the face of Lower Egypt. The stream continues rising until October, when it becomes stationary, and then gradually descends until drought prevails again.

Grand Cairo, the capital of the country, is a lively, bustling city, situated on an extensive plain. The streets are broad and clean, and there are many spacious bazaars and gorgeously-decorated mosques; and there is a public promenade in the centre of the town called the "Es-bekeh," which outvies any square in Europe. There Franks, Arabs, Turks, and Copts are seen mingling together, clad in every variety of national costume; European women upon Arab horses and side-saddles; Egyptian females of the better classes muffled in robes of black taffeta,

riding upon asses, and supported by their slaves; the Felah, traversing the streets, attired simply in a wide, loose tunic of blue cloth, bearing a classically-shaped water-jug upon his head, and a child astride upon his shoulders; Bedouins in their striped boubous; military-looking men in cloth frock-coats and the universal red fez-cap; Syrians with capacious turbans, and begirt with the most valuable shawls; and native women upon foot, the lower portion of their faces covered with a thick, mask-like veil.

Over trousers and an under-linen garment with wide sleeves, they wear a gaily-embroidered waistcoat; on this again a robe is placed, gathered in at the hips, but descending to the feet, and open at both sides; downwards from the waist, the "qamis" is simple in the extreme. Their chon trousers float loosely on the shoulders, and a small cap is placed upon the crown of the head, to which a kerchief of crimson or embroidered muslin is attached, ornamented with several pieces of small coin. The lower orders wear only a dark-blue dress over ample trousers, a long, flowing blue and white chequered veil, and carry baskets or water-vessels, with almost invariably a child on the right shoulder. Although not remarkable for beauty, they possess considerable personal attractions; their large, well-opened eyes are dark as night, and shaded by long silken lashes; the nose is small, but the nostrils are slightly dilated; the lips somewhat too thick; whilst the dazzling whiteness of the teeth is enhanced by the strong contrast of their dusky skins. Their height is moderate, their frame slender, and, in fact, and free; and their figures are never distorted by European appliances.

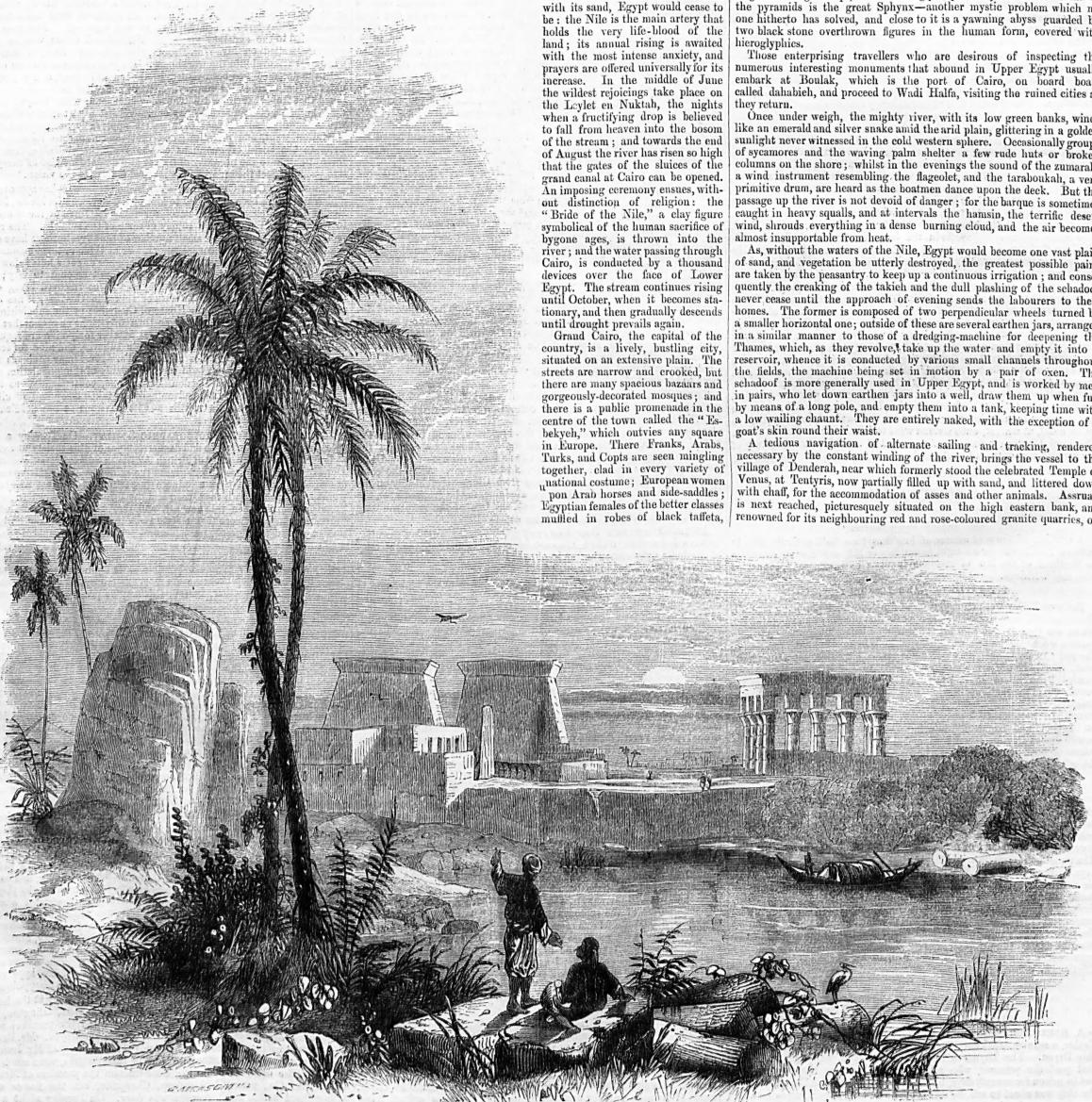
Crossing the Nile above the lovely island of Rosetta, where the Pasha has a country-seat, and passing through fields of beans, maize, rye-cress, and the prolific, graceful date, bearing palm, amongst huts composed of the dried river-mud and camel's dung, the traveller comes upon a sea of sand, from which the three great pyramids stand out in sharp relief against the azure sky. Nearly at the base of these gigantic structures is a small village, called Kafev-en-Betram, inhabited by Bedouins, who are the self-constituted guides and guardians of the pyramids. They hold horses, camels, asses, and every other chattel-property, in common; the poor containing the backschish (gratuities given by visitors) being the only means of subsistence. They are in equitably distributed of its contents at convenient opportunities. They are provided with a mill of stone, each placed a little behind the other, thus forming a series of celsed stairs; and, with the assistance of the Arabs, the ascent and descent are accomplished without difficulty. The date of the erection of these mysterious works is wrapped in obscurity; but tradition ascribes the largest to King Cheops, and accordingly it passes by his name. Near to the pyramids is the great Sphinx—another mystic problem which no one hitherto has solved, and close to it is a yawning abyss guarded by two black stone overthrown figures in the human form, covered with hieroglyphics.

Those enterprising travellers who are desirous of inspecting the numerous and interesting monuments that abound in Upper Egypt usually embark at Boulaq, which is the port of Cairo, on board boats called dahabieh, and proceed to Wadi-Halfa, visiting the ruined cities as they return.

Once under weigh, the mighty river, with its low green banks, winds like an emerald and silver snake amid the arid plain, glittering in a golden sunlight never witnessed in the cold western sphere. Occasionally groups of sycamores and the waving palm shelter a few rude huts or broken columns on the shore; whilst in the evenings the sound of the zamarah, a wind instrument resembling the flagonet, and the taraboukah, a very primitive drum, are heard as the boatmen dance upon the deck. But the passage up the river is not devoid of danger; for the barque is sometimes caught in heavy squalls, and at intervals the hamsin, the terrific desert wind, strands everything in a dense burning cloud, and the air becomes almost incandescent in its heat.

As without the waters of the Nile, Egypt would become one vast plain of sand, and vegetation be utterly destroyed, the greatest possible pains are taken by the peasantry to keep up a continuous irrigation; and consequently the breaking of the takieh and the dull plashing of the shadouf never cease until the approach of evening sends the labourers to their homes. The former is composed of two perpendicular wheels turned by a smaller horizontal one; outside of these are several earthen jars, arranged in a similar manner to those of a dredging-machine for deepening the Thanes, which, as they revolved, take up the water and empty it into a reservoir, which is conducted by various small channels throughout the land; the water is then led off by a series of small shadouf. The shadouf is more generally used in Upper Egypt, and is worked by men in pairs, who let down earthen jars into a well, draw them up when full by means of a long pole, and empty them into a tank, keeping time with a low wailing chant. They are entirely naked, with the exception of a goat's skin round their waist.

A tedious navigation of alternate sailing and tracking, rendered necessary by the constant winding of the river, brings the vessel to the village of Denderah, near which formerly stood the celebrated Temple of Venus, at Tentyris, now partially filled up with sand, and littered down with chaff, for the accommodation of asses and other animals. Assuan is next reached, picturesquely situated on the high eastern bank, and renowned for its neighbouring red and rose-coloured granite quarries, on



THE LAND OF EGYPT

the islands of Philae and Bidsche. The lesser catacombs now intervene, and voyagers proceed by land to Messid, the port of Nubia, where the products of Dongola, Corduba, and Sennar are transported to Assuan, to be shipped for Grand Cairo and Alexandria, and thence to the upper cataracts. On the descent of the stream, the admirers of antiquity will visit the temples of Abu-sambul—hewn in the limestone rock by the great Sesostris—Kelaibache, and Elfauf, and gaze in wonder at the tombs of the dead kings, in the valley of Assuit. The far-famed colossal statue of Memnon and its companion sit in a field on the wide Libyan

the illustrious Plesiosaurus and his other antediluvian *confrères* from prying too closely into the nature of the honour reserved for their more fortunate restored brother. A series of small banners, suspended to the drapery, bore the names of Cuvier, Conybeare, Mantell, Buckland, Owen, Forbes, and other scientific persons. Professor Owen occupied the model of the head of the animal, and, more appropriate, in the head of the animal ; Mr. Francis Dider, the managing director of the Crystal Palace Company, Professor Forbes, and Mr. Gould, occupied excusions prominent in the rear of the monster ; while along the ribs were reserved seats for Mr. Prestwich, Mr. D. Wyat, Mr. Farquhar, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Day, Mr. Ingram, and other gentlemen.

The Iguanodon, in the mould of which the dinner was given, was a native of Sussex, and several of the bones from the model of which the great animal has been restored were found near Horsham. The dimensions of the animal have been kept within the severest limits of anatomical knowledge. His length from the snout to the end of the tail is one hundred feet. He is twelve feet in height, his girth round the body is about twenty-five feet, and the girth of his fore leg six feet six inches. He was a vegetarian in the days when coarse, rank herbage afforded him his supplies of food, and is undoubtedly the brother of his class.

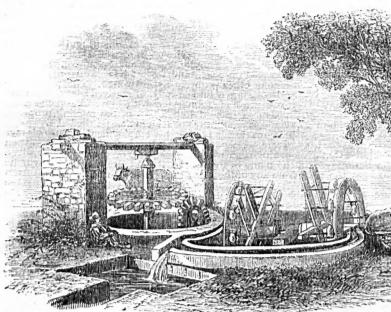
At present there stands by the side of the Iguanodon, almost completed, a gigantic beast, the *Hydrosaurus*. He is twenty-five feet in length, nine feet six inches in height, and his girth is twenty-one feet. He has a most formidable-looking "sawtooth" on his back, and, according to the length of his back, and which give him an exceedingly terrific appearance. It is supposed that this individual was not altogether a vegetarian in his habits, but that, like his human successors, he devoured flesh with his vegetables. Another gigantic beast is the *Leiostylosaurus*. He was neither fish nor lizard, but partook a little of the gaud or had qualities of both. He was in the habit of propelling himself through the water by means of a "screw propeller" of rather formidable dimensions, fixed at the end of a long tail, and which worked at the greatest distance of thirty-five feet from the nose of its owner. The *Trelosaurus* is a large crocodile, something like those of the Ganges, but who, in earlier times, found himself stranded in the lias, at Whitby. He has an immense hook or long extended jaws, nearly half the length of the entire body, and armed with a double row of horrible, long teeth. This interesting specimen is thirty feet in length. The *Plesiosaurus* was a native of Dorsetshire, and formed a curious connecting link with the lizard and serpent ; he is about twenty feet in length, and has a beautiful, lofty, arched neck, like that of a swan, with one of the most vicious-looking heads that ever adorned a serpent. The gigantic frog, or toad-like *Labyrinthodon*, is about ten feet in length and of proportionate width, and was constructed entirely from those footprints with which the animal had left behind him, and which are still preserved in the new sandstone. The *Megethion* is a most extraordinary animal ; he is seen sitting upon his haunches, and like a great bear, holding a huge tree which he is tearing up by its roots, for the purpose of getting at the foliage and young branches, upon which he is desirous of making a meal. He is thirteen feet six inches in height from the haunches to the top of his head, and his girth round the body is about twenty feet. There are also four *Anthrotheres*, forming an interesting group of those animals who once swam in the vast lake on which Paris now stands, at a time when the stone of which Paris is built was not yet formed. They are not of such vast dimensions as the other animals ; but, like them, and to somewhat like them in their form. These smaller and somewhat graceful creatures contrast strongly with the monstrous proportions of the *Mosaurosa*, an animal found in the valley of the Meuse, having the head of an aquatic lizard, nine feet six inches in length, and three feet six inches across the forehead. The *Dieynodon* is the representative of an African animal, which appeared to have been the connecting link between the turtle and walrus, having two tusks growing out of his head ; his dimensions are about eight feet in length. There are some most tempting specimens of gigantic turtle found in the Isle of Sheppey, and imagination can scarcely avoid conjuring up the scenes of the great Massacre of the *Medieval* City of London ; the corporation must have welcomed the pleasing intelligence of schools of turtle so near the halls of their civic grandeur. No remains of human bones, however, attest that the solitudes of Sheppey were disturbed by the visits of the purveyors of turtle for the monster aldermen of those geological epochs. By far,

however, the most interesting and beautiful animals are a pair of gigantic Irish elk. The female is in a recumbent position, and is one of the rarest specimens of modelling we have seen for some time. The male is truly noble in form ; the top of his antlers stand twelve feet from the ground and four feet above his head, and the breadth between them is not less than ten feet. The body of the elk is about ten feet, and his girth about the same. The bunch of venison which such an animal would supply would be of right royal dimensions, indeed.

It is intended to place these animals on an island, where they will be surrounded by representations of those scenes which they once inhabited. But with that constant attention to educational purposes which so brightly marks the direction of affairs, it is not considered sufficient

COALS AND THE COAL TRADE.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Newcastle Chronicle*—a paper exceedingly well-informed in all matters relating to the coal trade—puts the public in possession of the following curious piece of information, which he writes for the benefit of coal-owners. He says—“It is pretty well known that the London coal-merchant conducts his trade upon the principle of charging a certain fixed sum above the Pool price, to cover large hire, loading, shooting, leading, &c. This sum varies from 5s. to 7s. a ton, giving a



THE SAKIA.

plain, throned upon ruined Thebes. But the days of miracles are gone ; and the voice of the wondrous monolith is silent no more, as day by day the sun-god passes above its head. The desert is now known to have been encircled by numerous priests climbing by night into the interior of the statue, and striking a metallic stone with a hammer, thereby producing a harmonious sound, as the morning rays light upon the hero's head. Memnonium, the temple-palace of Rameses, must not be neglected, nor the magnificent ruins of Luxor and Karnak ; and then, after drifting by the necropolis of the once mighty Memphis, the residence of the Pharaohs and their queens, of which nothing now remains but an overthrown colossus, the great pyramids of Gizeh are dimly shadowed forth, the heights of the Mokattam, the citadel of Grand Cairo, become visible, and the dalaibah again ride peacefully in the harbour of Bouak,

Abbas Pacha, the present Viceroy of Egypt, succeeded his grandfather, Mehemet Ali ; his own father, Ibrahim, having died previously to the



MEMNON.

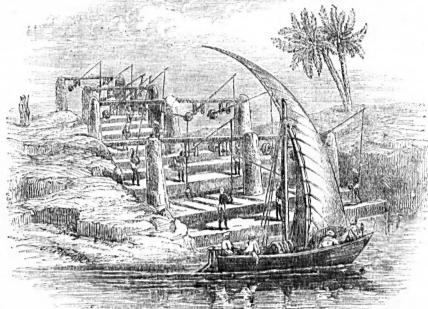
great Padisha. He possesses regular features, with sparkling eyes, and his beard is just beginning to be tinged with grey. He takes a deep interest in the welfare of the country he has been called to govern, and energetically promotes the making of the railway from Cairo to Suez, thus facilitating the transit of the overland India mail to Egypt, in cotton, corn, and every species of grain, and dependent as she is, naturally upon the railway, the time for her despatch, she needs a well-organized system of general transport, with improved means of internal communication ; and these being ably carried out, Abbas Pacha will well deserve the title he so much affects—namely, that of “The Father of his People.”

Egypt is also interesting as the birthplace of the Christmas-tree, its origin dating from a period long antecedent to the Christian era. The palm-tree is known to put forth a shoot every month ; and a spray of tree, with twelve shoots on it, was used in Egypt at the time of winter solstice as a symbol of the year completed. Egyptian associations are well-arranged, even now, with the tradition and custom of the Christians—there are as many “pyramids” as trees used in Germany in the celebration of Christmas, by those whose means do not admit of purchasing trees and their concomitant tapers, &c. These pyramids consist of slight creations of slips of wood, arranged like a pyramidal *épergne*, covered with green paper, and decorated with festoons of paper chain-work, which flutter in the wind, and make believe foliage ; this latter, however, is an innovation of modern days. The palm-tree spray of Egypt, on reaching Italy, became a branch of any other tree (the tip of the fir was found most suitable, from its pyramidal or conical shape), and was decorated with burning tapers lit in honour of Santa Lucia, whose *santuaria* were celebrated from the 17th to the 21st of December, the period of the winter solstice ; the lighted tapers, the presents given *Castorina*—and the entertainment of the domestics, a footing of quality, date from this age. After the *santuaria* came the days called the *sigillaria*, when presents were made of impressions stamped on wax, which still form part of the furniture of a Christmas-tree. To the *sigillaria* succeeded one day, called the *jucuaria*, on which everybody, even adults, indulged in childish sports, and hence the romping close of our Christmas festivities.

DINNER IN AN IGUANODON.

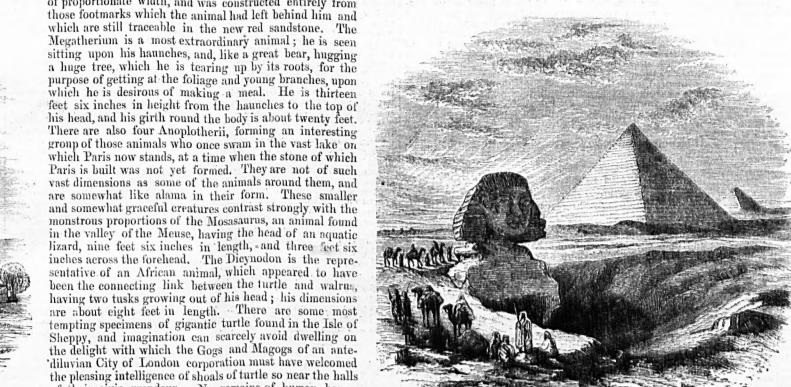
A DINNER was given on Saturday evening to Professor Owen, in the model of the Iguanodon, in the grounds of the Crystal Palace, Sydenham. The number of gentlemen present was twenty-eight, of whom twenty-four were accommodated in the interior of the Iguanodon, and seven in a side-table on a platform raised to the same level. The drapery, tastefully arranged in the form of a marquee above the restored monster, served to some extent to keep off the cold wind, and to prevent

that persons should merely gaze upon these reconstructed animals ; the geological tyro will also have the opportunity of noting the various strata of which the crust of the earth is composed, and the peculiar organic remains peculiar to them.



THE SHADOOF.

medium charge of 6s. Thus, when a household coal is sold for 24s. in the coal-market (which means delivering over the ship's side in the Pool), the coal-merchant supplies his customers at 30s., and so on. I make no further comment on this part of the trade than this single observation : that the Great Northern Railway Company perform the same services—that is, they take the coals from the wagon to the consumer—for 2s. 6d. a ton ; the difference being 3s. 6d. This may or may not be the fair difference ; I merely quote it to illustrate what follows. On the 9th and 12th of December a large fleet of nearly 600 sail of colliers arrived in London. This fleet had been collecting, by adverse winds, for upwards of three weeks ; and when it arrived, it was well known that London was



THE SPHINX.

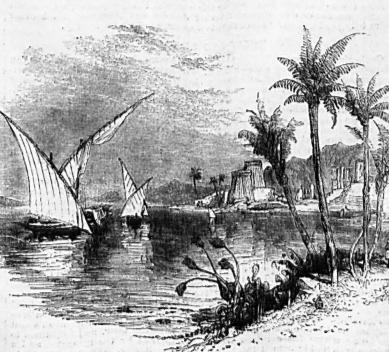
literally on the starving point for coals. At the previous market 35s. had been given for house, and 25s. for gas coals. In fact, three or four of the gas companies had not twelve hours' stock among them ; and the house trade was equally close run. Now, the theory of the London coal-market is, that the coal-factor is the agent of the coal-owner, who pays him an excessive commission for a very easy and unimportant service.

It is an agent, if the theory were correct, he is bound to sell the property of his principal at the best possible price—in fact, to take advantage of every accidental circumstance which might enhance the value of the article intrusted to his care. Let us see how this was carried out in practice on the 9th and 12th instant. I have already said that 600 sail arrived at these two markets, and that prices were, just twenty-four hours before, 3s. a ton.

“But the coal-factors, without any communication with their principals, suddenly lowered the price to 20s. a ton for best coals (and others lower in proportion), and they sold the whole fleet at these prices. It was quite notorious that there were no more loaded vessels on their passage. Possibly, fifty vessels would be the utmost number that could arrive in London during the following week. At this time (12th of December) it was also obvious, from the crowded state of the Pool, that no vessels then sold could be discharged for one or two weeks.

“Notwithstanding these facts, patent to all, the large fleet was sold at 20s. for best coals. As soon as this was disposed of, the coal-factors ran up the prices of these coals to 34s. and 35s. for half-a-dozen straights. The coal-market was then running *par passu* with the last price on the market, charged to the public the bulk of the coals bought at 20s. and under, as if they had been bought at 34s. and 35s., putting the difference between these prices and 20s. into their own pockets, in addition to the 6s. to which they consider themselves entitled.

“I have referred to the last fleet only ; but if I had time to ransack the files of the coal-market, I could show that this is frequently done—so frequently, indeed, that it would make one conclude that it was systematic, if it were not for the extreme dishonesty that such a conclusion implies. Whatever may be the cause of it, the effect is the same—that is, to take several shillings per ton out of the pocket of the coal-owner, and put them into that of the coal-factor. At a very moderate calculation, the sum so transferred on the last occasion was not less than £20,000. As a condition of this nearly analogous *immatuit*, it may not be without use to call the attention of the parties interested in it to the subject.



Parliament will say or do; Parliament having met for the transaction of *business*, business no doubt will be wholly put aside for crimination and reprimand upon past and irreparable blundering; and the whole session in all probability get involved in the business of a gigantic war, which a little promptitude might have rendered small or wholly averted. As the last and perhaps the most admirable instance of the working of our procrastinating policy, we may hint at the fact that the instructions to enter the Black Sea arrived just at the time when the condition of the weather prevented the Fleet from moving. Despatches announce, "It is supposed that, should the weather moderate, they will sail in on an early day in January." We are equally at liberty to "suppose," perhaps, that if the weather does not moderate until February, the Fleet will be met at period where it lay in November, or when massacre was made at Sinope.

The same despatch informs us that, according to letters from Persia of the 30th November, the Persian Government had given way to the energy displayed by the English Charge d'Affaires, and had rendered full satisfaction. We have no authority to doubt the truth of the statement; but from its source and from the facts of the case are strongly inclined to believe it only another wave of the autocratic quill, to lull our Cabinet. We may rely upon it that up to the last moment of indecision efforts of that character will not be wanting, even if they are made by the association of so great an improbability as the above statement conveys. Persia, it is notorious, has for years been given over to Russian influences. It is the mere vassal of the Autocrat; and we cannot believe that having once made union with him on the present crisis, and so offended and incurred the suspicion of England, the Court of Teheran would dare to retreat, and so incense its immediate master the Czar.

THE COBURG INTRIGUES.

The following significant passage, dated Vienna, Dec. 25, relative to the Coburg intrigues at the English Court, appeared in the second edition of the *Times* of Tuesday:—"Instead of being astonished that the 'house policy' of the Coburgs is so severely anathematized in England, the Austrians appear surprised that the British nation was slow to remark what was going on. A brief reference to past events will suffice to show that England has indolently been in the leading-strings of Russia and Austria. Some four months since, Russia found it convenient to remember that a kingdom of Belgium figured on the map of Europe, and the consequence was that the Ulysses of Europe was recognized as a 'legitimate' Sovereign by the impious Czar. In order still further to strengthen his position, King Leopold signed a family alliance with the House of Austria, and accordingly the marriage between the Duke of Brabant and the Archduchess Maria was arranged. It is positively affirmed that as soon as all was thus 'made right' between the King of the Belgians and the two great Northern Powers, the former undertook to convince his high relatives and friends in England that an intimate alliance with France would be pernicious to England. How well the astute Monarch has acquitted himself of his task has been seen by the humiliating part which England has so long been playing in the great political drama which now exclusively occupies the attention of the world."

A Cabinet Council was held on Tuesday afternoon at the Foreign-office, Downing-street. The Ministers present were the Earl of Aberdeen, Lord John Russell, the Lord Chancellor, Earl Granville, the Duke of Argyle, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Viscount Palmerston, the Earl of Clarendon, the Duke of Newcastle, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir James Graham, Sir Charles Wood, the Right Hon. Sidney Herbert, and Sir William Molesworth. The Council sat three hours and a half.

A Cabinet Council was also held on Thursday at the Foreign-office.

SUSPENSION OF THE RUSSIAN RAILWAYS.—We have just learned from a private communication upon which we have every reason to rely, that the Russian Government, by a general order to several commercial gentlemen and engineers interested in the Russian railways, has it not intended to proceed at present with these undertakings. In fact, no works are about to be suspended, and all the men and money required for their execution will be devoted to carrying on the war.—*Observer*.

CHANGING MONEY AT THE POST-OFFICE.—Notices have been issued at the General Post-office:—"The public are requested to examine at the time of receipt the money handed to them at this office, as no question as to the right amount, the goodness or weight of the coin, or the goodness of the Bank notes, can be entertained after the money has been removed from the counter at the window." This notice has been issued in consequence of the many tricks that have been attempted by parties complaining that they had not received the right change or that some of the shillings they had taken were not good.

REMARKABLE VARIATION IN THE TEMPERATURE.—The following circumstance is hardly known to be enrolled in the annals of meteorology. On Friday, December 23, it was known to several commercial gentlemen and engineers interested in the Russian railways, that it was not intended to proceed at present with these undertakings. In fact, no works are about to be suspended, and all the men and money required for their execution will be devoted to carrying on the war.—*Observer*.

READING-ROOM AT CARLISLE.—A *séminaire* in connexion with the Lord-street Reading-room was held on Monday evening in the spacious hall of that institution, which was crowded to overflowing by a highly respectable assemblage, composed principally of members of the working-classes. The walls of the hall were decorated with numerous devices bearing suitable inscriptions, which were pleasantly interspersed with busts of various eminent men, and mechanical and landscape drawings. Raised upon a platform at the extreme end of the room were the members of the Carlists Albert Band, who, by their efforts, contributed greatly to the embellishment of the proceedings.

REAL SEVENTH WONDERS.—It may be well for Mr. Anderson to call himself the Wizard of the World, but what shall we call Mr. E. Smith, who has performed a feat unknown in theatrical annals for the last quarter of a century—namely, he has actually paid into the hands of the committee the sum of four thousand pounds, the amount of one year's rental. The fortunate lessee has used harlequin's wad to some purpose.

THE MASON'S SHOULD WEAR THE MOUSTACHE.—In the Anatomical Museum of the Edinburgh College are the lungs of a man who died at the age of forty-five, of phthisis. The air passages, as shown by dissection, were literally blocked up with fine particles of dust—the accumulation of many years. We were glad to see on our visit to two or three different builders that the London masons are now growing their beards pretty generally, that the fashion is gaining ground, and will soon, in all probability, become universal. The simple action of the mous-tache in such cases is that of a respirator, or, more correctly speaking, a species of sieve, for intercepting the passage of the dust. Besides the respirator having the effect of keeping the lungs clear of foreign particles, it has also the great advantage of preserving the body healthy and capable with around the orifice of the air passages. But we have lately dwelt so much on this natural sanitary agent that any further enlargement would seem out of place.—*Builder*.

THE WEATHER.

On Wednesday, owing to an extraordinary fall of snow, which commenced on the previous night, and continued during the early part of the morning, the traffic of the metropolis suffered very great interruption. But the most serious interruption to the course of City business arose from the snow blocking up the various lines of railway, owing to which the mail and other trains were delayed to an extent unknown for many years past, and probably unprecedented since the introduction of the railway system. Several of the great lines of railway were for some hours completely blocked up, and rendered entirely inoperative. When trains were completely unable to move in snow, by telegraphic despatch, from Southampton we learned that the snow fell in that neighbourhood without intermission during the whole of Tuesday night, accompanied by a strong north-east wind. Thus despatch reported all the railroads to be blocked up, as well as many of the turnpikes. The town and neighbourhood of Birmingham were also visited by a very heavy snowstorm. In Gloucestershire and Worcestershire, after a continuation of severe frost, repeated storms of snow fell. In some parts of Scotland the storm seems to have made its appearance before visiting England.

A telegraphic despatch, dated Tynemouth, Wednesday, which we have received, contains the following intelligence:—"The snow has fallen a foot all day. Wind east to right, force 6. The weather, Anterior, 10. The sun at the Almshouse, of London, the Europa of Hull, Arches, of Blyth, New Messenger, of Liverpool, Sir Robert Potts, of Dundee, and Elizabeth, of Kirkwall, all came ashore this morning. All hands of the Elizabeth were drawn. The other crews were saved."

We regret to state that two constables attached to the metropolitan police force were found frozen to death, on Tuesday morning, in the neighbourhood of Hornsey.

ASSAULT BY AN UNDER-GRADUATE.

A GREAT deal of interest was excited at the Cambridge Borough Sessions, by a charge of assault, preferred by an eminent solicitor in the town against an under-graduate, of Christ's College, and the son of Mr. Deighton, the well-known bookseller, of Trinity-street. The defendant is a slim youth, of about twenty years of age; and Mr. Foster, so far as physical strength is concerned, is infinitely his superior.

Edmond Foster, the plaintiff, stated that on the twenty-second of December he was engaged in a County-Court case against Messrs. Deighton, and Grant, the publishers of St. Michael's. He was unsuccessful, and returned to his office. His master—Mr. Deighton—left there to go to dinner, and left my private residence to return to the office about six o'clock. At the corner of Broad-street, next King's-square, I saw some one standing, and it proved to be the defendant. He spoke to me, saying, "Your name's Foster, I think?" I replied, "Yes, it is," and he then said, "My name's Deighton. You're a — blackguard and a lying thief." He spit in my face, and said, "There's something for you to take home. I then turned on him, saying, "What do you mean by this?" and he then squared his fist, and struck me a violent blow under the right eye. My eye was black for a week. I thought it was not worth while having a "set-to" there, and I said he should hear more of it, and went my way. I go that way four days a week. I made a complaint before the magistrates. The Master of Peterhouse and other magistrates sent me to the sessions. The defendant's age is stated to be about eighteen at twenty. I never had any alteration with either the defendant or his father, though I and the latter differed as to the church-rates of St. Michael's parish.

The defendant's statement before the magistrates was here put in and read as follows:—

"Gentlemen.—On two or three occasions the complainant has insulted my father at St. Michael's Church. My father has complained to me of the systematic insults that he has received from Mr. Foster during the last two years. On Thursday last, my father complained to me again (when I returned home about four o'clock) that Mr. E. Foster had wantonly insulted him, by an injurious and false assertion made by my uncle, who is dead. This assertion was entirely untrue, and I am sorry to say, which Mr. Foster was guilty of. My father told that he was grossly and cruelly insulted by it. On hearing this, and seeing how my father was affected by it, I determined to put up with Mr. Foster such an insult as I considered due to the repeated insults which he had offered to my father, and more especially to his conduct that morning; and it was with that intention I left the house. With regard to the blow that I struck, it was entirely in self-defence, as I anticipated one from Mr. Foster after what had taken place. I am sorry I was induced to act in the violent manner I did, but I acted under the impression of punishing Mr. Foster for the insults he had offered to my father, and within an hour of hearing what took place that morning."

Several witnesses having been examined, the Recorder said the facts were unblurred; it was clear that the defendant left his father's house with the intention of assaulting plaintiff, used the most opprobrious language to him, and spit in his face. He adjudged defendant to pay a fine of £20, and to bound over in recognisances to keep the peace, himself in the sum of £50, and two sureties of £25 each. Costs were ordered against defendant.

THE BLACK SEA AND THE BALTIc.

The Black Sea is larger than the Baltic, and receives larger rivers. The land which surrounds the Black Sea is almost everywhere fertile; great part of the lands on the Baltic are sandy plains, scarcely covered with a meagre growth of heath. For a considerable part of every year the navigation of the Baltic is closed by ice; except in the Sea of Azoff, and some of the ports adjoining Odessa and Black Sea can be navigated at all seasons. The Black Sea is excellently suited for all sides; the southern and eastern shores of the Baltic are singularly defective in this respect. From its extreme position on the earth's surface and the solid structure of the coasts of the Black Sea ought far to exceed that of the Baltic; yet we find our trade with the former limited to comparatively minor operations on the Lower Danube, at Odessa, Taganrog, and Trebizond, while the Baltic trade of Sweden, Prussia, Russia, and Denmark constitutes an inconsiderable fraction of our aggregate national commerce;

The termination of the exclusive pre-eminence of Russia on the Black Sea is an indispensable pre-requisite to the full development of the naval capabilities of the region. Trade cannot be fair play there until other nations—standard-bearers of England, France, and America—on its waters are in equality with the Russian, remaining neutral. A neutral, by their mere presence, that; however powerful his government may appear to his own serfs and courtiers, he cannot become more amenable than the equal of other governments, and thus compelling him to act rationally and equitably. The access of American, French, and English men-of-war—of the men-of-war of all nations—to the Black Sea, thence to watch over and protect the trades of each, must be made as free as their access to the Baltic, before the commerce of the former can have fair play. In other words, the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus must be made as practicable to ships of war as the Sound. When this has been done, confidence will be established among merchants; the rivalry of the various States on the Black Sea, and the territories adjoining it, to attract to each the greater wealth and industry of all; and the world will no longer be puzzled by the anomaly of the smaller and less favourably circumstanced of two by the naturally more capable rival. An opportunity of effecting this now presents itself; which, if neglected, may not recur for centuries. The old treaties which closed the navigation of the Black Sea by diplomatic mounds and dykes have been shattered by the outbreak of hostilities between Turkey and Russia: these treaties are now worth no more than the price of what they are written upon as waste paper. International relations on the Black Sea must be re-constituted upon new compact; and if the present administrations of England, France, and America do not avail themselves of this opportunity to bring that sea within the pale of the civilised world—to throw it open to the enterprise of all nations—they will, one and all, deserve impeachment.—*Daily News*.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

Illustrated Times Office, Thursday Evening.

MONEY MARKET.—Although up to this date we have been almost entirely without further advices from the seat of war, and with the few rumours on the market, there have been frequent fluctuations in the quotations for stocks, evincing the extreme susceptibility of the money market under the present aspect of foreign affairs.

On Monday the opening quotations of 93½ were not long sustained, owing rather to heavy sales of stocks than to any definite impressions concerning political affairs; and the closing price of Consols, for the account on that day, was not better than 93. On the two following days the quotations underwent frequent, although not important, fluctuations between 92½ and 93½, the latest being 92½ to 93. The price of to-day is 92½ to 93½. The Reduced and Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents, have both been declining, the last figures for the former being 93½, for the latter 94½. Long Annuities, 5½. Bank Stock, 215-217. Exchequer Bills are first at 7½, to 10, premium.

The amount of bills which fell due on the 4th inst. appears to have been less than usual, owing, perhaps, to the circumstance which has for some time past been observed in commercial circles; and, although some little inconvenience was felt from the non-arrival of country mails, the whole of the paper was well met. The rate of discount for first-class papers of short date is 4½ to 5 per cent.

The shipments of sugar by the Kypion steamer, from Southampton to Alexandria, on Wednesday, amounted to £225,390; of this by far the larger portion was in gold for India, China, and Ceylon.

RAILWAYS.—Shares have been experiencing the effects of the fluctuations in the stock market as usual; and, although rather firm in the early part of the week, have since experienced a decline of from 5s. to 10s. per cent.

MINES.—There has been some business transacted in mining-shares, notwithstanding my better feeling, and they must be called rather heavy.

Land shares have been held, whilst in Bank shares there has been a slight decline.

NOTICES.—There has been given that an application for a charter is lodged for a steam company, to open a communication between this country, the Australian Colonies, India, and China, under the title of "The Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Steam Navigation Company."

PRODUCE.—There has been a more than usual activity in our produce market, considering the time of year, which is generally one of extreme languor; but the general feeling which has so long existed in favour of an anticipated raising of prices has been gradually gaining ground, especially in some articles of general consumption; and the rumours of more than probable war tend, in no slight degree, to confirm this.

COTTON.—This is one of the few articles of general demand not participating in this improved feeling, misnamed as a war would certainly limit the exports of yarns and cloths to our colonies, and a few neutral or friendly countries.

COFFEE.—There has continued in brisk demand, both for speculation and actual consumption, especially for the Ceylon Native and low Plantation sorts. The quotation for the former is now made 50s. 6d., with a good deal doing; whilst the latter kinds are called 1s., to 2s. dear.

TEA.—There has been an absence of any fresh movement: buyers are reluctant to give the extreme rates demanded for Cóngou; and dealers, pending further advices from China, keep themselves sparingly supplied.

SEAGARS.—Of nearly all kinds have remained exceedingly firm, with a slight advance upon former quotations, though without any other feature of particular note.

TEA.—In the absence of any further adverse news from the seat of war, Tzalzow has not made any further upward movement, and Russian yellow cambric is still quoted at 50s. 6d. The stocks continue moderate, whilst deliveries are good.

SILKS.—Are becoming dearer, and both the raw and manufactured imports are held for better prices.

DRUGS AND DYES.—Are being altogether without animation; but the usual fortnightly sales will re-commence on next Thursday.

OILS.—Of all low descriptions continue in good demand, with every prospect of higher figures being quoted at approaching sales.

RICE.—Is exceedingly active, with fair Bengal quoted at 16s. to 16s. 6d.

SALTWATER.—Is injured for at 30s. to 31s.

LIVERPOOL CORPORATION ACCOUNTS.—The total income of the corporate estate for the year is estimated at £171,775; and the obligatory expenses, are likely to be £126,926, leaving a gross surplus of £44,852. Last year the income was estimated at £148,900, the obligatory expenses at £127,100, and the surplus at £31,800. From the gross surplus, however, there will have to be deducted several items of discretionary expenditure, which amount to £3,147, also for improvements in West Derby-road, and Mount Pleasant; Broad-street, and Chudlton-street, and Dale-street; Library and Museum. After deducting these amounts, there is still a surplus of £30,105. It is presumed, however, that the council will order the payment of the following sum towards the watery rate, in lieu of poor rates on the corporate property, namely, for Liverpool £5,255, Toxteth £1,585, West Derby £685, Everton £798, Kirkdale, £298. If these payments be allowed, the balance left to be expended for the general benefit of the inhabitants will be £18,213.—*Liverpool Mercury*.

AN EXTRAORDINARY TREE.—The *Gardener's Chronicle* announces the discovery in California of a most magnificent coniferous tree, 300 feet high. This magnificent evergreen tree, from its extraordinary height and large dimensions, may be termed the monarch of the California forests. It inhabits a solitary spot on the elevated slopes of the Sierra Nevada, about 12 miles from the town of the Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Merced rivers, at 38 N. lat., 120 W., at an elevation of 5,000 feet from the level of the sea. From eighty to ninety trees exist, all within the circuit of a mile, and these varying from 250 feet to 320 feet in height, and from ten to twenty feet in diameter. Their manner of growth is much like Sequoi (taxodium) sempervirens; some are solitary, some are in pairs; while some, and not unfrequently, stand three and four together. A tree recently felled measured about 300 feet in length, with a diameter, including bark, twenty-nine feet two inches, at five feet from the ground; at eighteen feet from the ground it was fourteen feet six inches through; at one hundred feet from the ground, fourteen feet; and at two hundred feet, five feet five inches. The bark is of a pale cinnamon brown, and from twelve to fifteen inches thick. The branches are round, somewhat pendulous, and resembling a coarse, large, willow. The leaves are pale greenish-yellow. Those of the young trees are spreading, with a sharp acuminate point. The cones are about two and a half inches long, and two inches across at the thickest part. The trunk of the tree in question was perfectly solid, from the sap-wood to the centre; and, judging from the number of concentric rings, its age has been estimated at 3000 years. The wood is light, soft, and of a reddish colour, like redwood or taxodium sempervirens. Of this vegetable monarch, twenty-one feet of the bark from the lower part of the trunk, have been put in the natural form in San Francisco for exhibition; it there forms a spacious carpeted room, and contains a piano, with seats for 500 persons. On one occasion 140 visitors were admitted without inconvenience. An exact representation of this tree, in its natural state, is now in the hands of the engravers, and will be published in a few days.

What a tree of wonders! what a portentous aspect and almost fabulous antiquity! They say that the specimen fell at the junction of the Stanislaus and San Joaquin was above 3000 years old—that is to say, it must have been a little plant when Sampson was slaying the Philistines, or Paris running away with Helen, or *Aeneas* carrying off good *pater Aeneas* upon his filial shoulders. And this may very well be true, if it does not grow above two inches in diameter in twenty years, which we believe to be the fact. At all events, we have obtained the plant. The seed received by Messrs. Veitch has all the appearance of vitality; and, since the tree is hardy and evergreen, it is a prodigious acquisition.

GREAT FIRE IN THE CITY.
The City was on Saturday night visited by another fearful conflagration. The scene of its ravages was in the most wealthy portion of the metropolis, Bread-street, Cheapside, which, with the adjoining small thoroughfare, Friday-street, in all containing some 200 houses, are insured, or rather their contents, to no less a sum than five millions sterling.

It commenced in a large warehouse, four stories high, in the joint occupation of Messrs. W. and T. Townsend, hat-manufacturers, Messrs. Hutchinsons and Spiller, carpet-warehousesmen, and several other firms. Messrs. Townsend occupied the warehouse on the ground-floor, which extended some eighty to one hundred feet backwards, and situated on the back of several Manchester warehouses on the east side of Friday-street. It evidently originated in the portion tenanted by Messrs. Townsend, but from what cause is yet to be ascertained. The workmen and shopmen left the warehouse shortly after ten o'clock, previously seeing, as they state, that all was safe, and the gas and fires in the stoves safely extinguished; but within a quarter of an hour flames were seen issuing forth through a skylight in the back of the premises. Mr. Braidwood immediately arrived on the spot; and although seven minutes had not intervened from the time of the discovery and the arrival of the engines, the fire had made astounding progress. The whole of the interior of the building was in flames from the basement to the roof. Mr. Braidwood, perceiving the alarming character of the fire, and aware of the immense amount of property situated in the warehouses in the vicinity, instantly sent messengers off to call out the whole force of engines, and succeeded, within half an hour after, in getting nearly twenty to operate on the burning property. Owing to the intense frost, some slight delay took place in procuring a full supply of water for the whole of the machines to work from, but this was speedily overcome. For a long while, however, the conflagration gained tremendously, and it was fully expected that nothing could be done to destroy the entire block of warehouses occupying the space between Bread-street and Friday-street. From the warehouse where it originated, it spread to an adjoining warehouse, No. 4, in the joint occupation of Mr. May, silk mercer, and Messrs. Brougham, button makers. Speedily the back warehouse of this establishment was in flames in every part, and then attacking the front warehouse, that shortly also fell a sacrifice. The frontage of three Manchester houses on the opposite side of the street likewise caught. On the other side, amidst the piles of warehouses abutting on the rear of the burning warehouses No. 4 and 5, the fire was penetrating numerous establishments, among them Messrs. Fownes, Brothers, glove manu-



THE FIRE IN BREAD STREET.

facturers, of 41, Cheapside; Messrs. Forster and Co., warehousemen; Messrs. Liddiard, and others. The extent the fire had reached appeared to paralyse everyone present, and a general opinion prevailed that it would be impossible for the flames to preserve any portion of the premises in danger. Thousands and thousands of persons, who had been attracted to the scene by the immense glare, crowded every thoroughfare

inclusion that could be arrived at was that it originated in the first-floor warehouse of Mr. Townsend, between the back part and Mr. W. May's warehouse, on the first-floor of No. 4, Bread-street. The walls are in a bad and dangerous state, particularly in Friday-street, and a strong body of the City police are on duty to prevent persons from congregating near the ruins.

in the district. The City was lighted up brilliantly for an immense distance; and as almost every steeple was at the time sending forth a merry peal, "ringing the old year out and the new one in," the effect was somewhat singular.

The following statement will convey a correct description of the extent and character of the property consumed and damaged:—

"On Bread-street, No. 5, a warehouse of considerable extent, and occupied by various firms, was totally destroyed. The total loss here is very great.

"No. 4, a warehouse, contents, stock, &c., entirely destroyed.

"Nos. 7 and 8, warehouses, side windows burned out, and contents greatly injured by water. &c.

"No. 3, The Bull's Head Tavern.

Damaged by water and removal, &c.

"Nos. 60, 61, and 62, warehouses (factories), those where the fire commenced. Fronts of the buildings scorched.

"No. 41, Cheapside. The extensive establishment of Messrs. Fownes, Brothers, glove manufacturers. Back part of warehouse damaged by fire and water. Several other houses in Cheapside sustained damage by water and hasty removal.

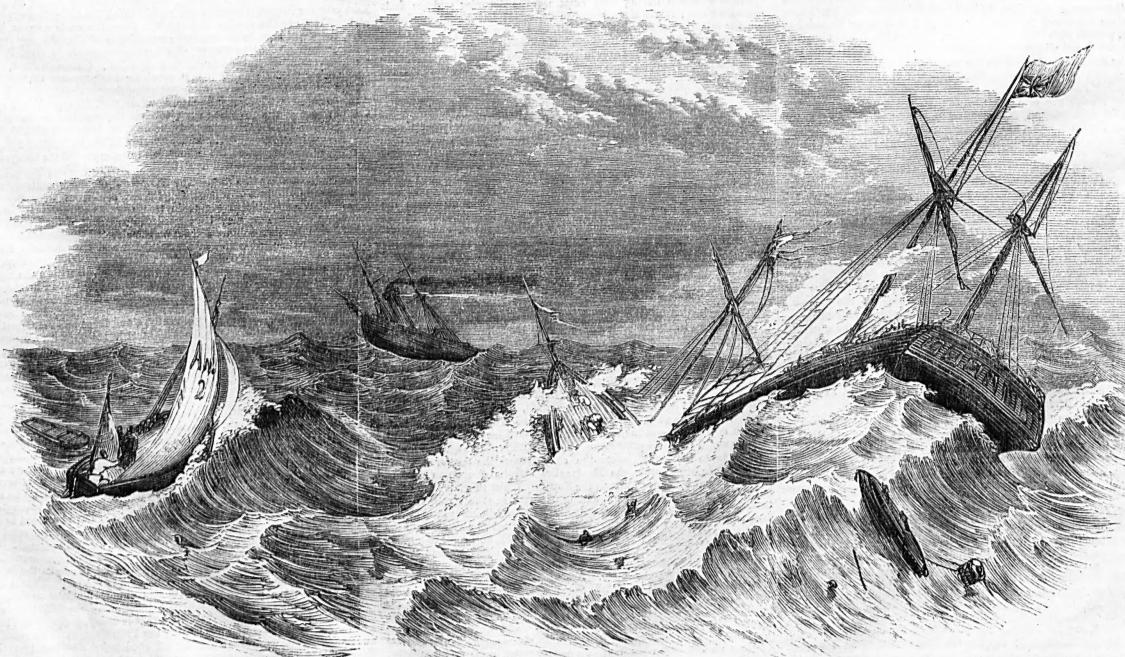
"No. 64, Friday-street. Warehouse. Stock damaged by fire and water.

"Warehouse of Messrs. Liddiard and Co., calico printers and warehousemen. Back warehouse on ground-floor burned out, and stock damaged.

"No. 60, Warehouse. Furniture damaged by water and removal."

Numerous other manufacturing firms, occupying portions of warehouses in the locality, and in some of the buildings above enumerated, are reported to have sustained considerable losses.

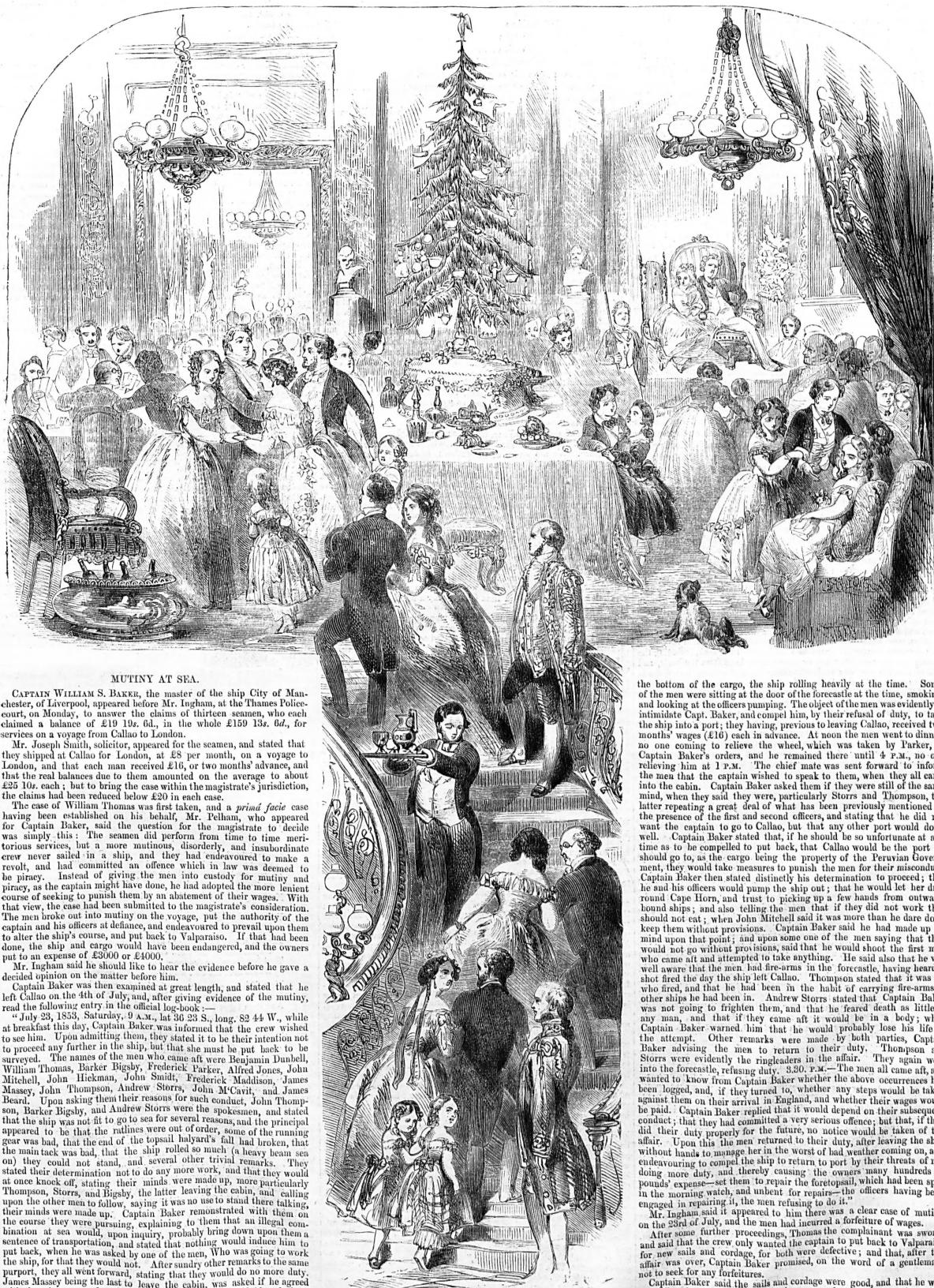
It is calculated that the various firms whose property and premises were destroyed or damaged have suffered to the amount of nearly £100,000. In most cases, the insurances will cover the loss, and many of the fire-places will in consequence be severe sufferers. During the whole of Monday morning, in consequence of the intense heat and body of fire that had got into the ruins, it was found necessary to keep engines in constant work; and notwithstanding the vast body of water thrown on the heated mass, it was then far from being extinguished. No positive clue can be obtained as to the origin of the fire, although the most active inquiries have been instituted by Mr. Braidwood, assisted by those immediately concerned; and the only con-



THE WRECK OF THE EVA.

[THREEPENCE,

TWELFTH NIGHT.



MUTINY AT SEA.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM S. BAKER, the master of the ship *City of Manchester* of Liverpool, appeared before Mr. Ingham, at the Thames Police-court, on Monday, to answer the claims of thirteen seamen, who each claimed a balance of £10 10s. 6d., in the whole £159 13s. 6d., on a voyage from Callao to London.

Mr. Joseph Smith, solicitor, appeared for the seamen, and stated that they shipped at Callao for London, at £8 per month, on a voyage to London, and that each man received £16, or two months' advance, and that the real balances due to them amounted on the average to about £25 10s. each; but to bring the case within the magistrate's jurisdiction, the claims had been reduced below £20 in each case.

The case of William Thomas was first taken, and a *prima facie* case having been made out for himself, Mr. Pelham, who appeared for Captain Baker, said the question was now to decide what was mutiny: this: The seamen did perform from time to time meritorious services, but a more mutinous, disorderly, and impudent crew never sailed in a ship, and they had endeavoured to make a revolt, and had committed an offence which in law was deemed to be piracy. Instead of giving the men into custody for mutiny and piracy, as the captain might have done, he had adopted the more lenient course of seeking to punish them by an abatement of their wages. With that view the case had been submitted to the magistrate's consideration. The men bore arms on the voyage, put the authority of the captain and the officers at defiance, and endeavoured to prevail upon them to alter the ship's course, and put her to Valparaiso. If that had been done the ship and cargo would have been endangered, and the owners put to an expense of £3000 or £4000.

Mr. Ingham said he should like to hear the evidence before he gave a decided opinion on the matter before him.

Captain Baker was then examined at great length, and stated that he left Callao on the 4th of July, and, after giving evidence of the mutiny, read the following entry in the official log-book:

"July 23, 1853, Salina Bay, 9 A.M., lat 33 33 S., long. 82 44 W., while at breakfast this day, Captain Baker was informed that the crew wished to see him. Upon admitting them, they stated that for their intention not to proceed any farther in the ship, but that she must be put back to be repaired. The names of the men who complained were Benjamin Dingle, William Thomas, Barker Bigsby, Frederick Parker, Alfred Jones, John Mitchell, John Hickman, John Snell, Frederick Marshall, James Massey, John Thompson, Andrew Storrs, John McGavitt, and James Beard. Upon asking them their reasons for such conduct, John Thompson, Barker Bigsby, and Andrew Storrs were the spokesmen, and stated that the ship was not fit to go to sea for several reasons, and the principal appeared to be that the ratlines were out of order, some of the running gear was bad, that the end of the topsail halyard's fall had broken, that the main tack was bad, that the ship rolled so much (heavy beam sea on) they could not stand, and several other trivial remarks. They stated their determination not to do any more, and said that they would at once turn off, stating their minds were made up, more particularly Thompson, Storrs, and Bigsby, the latter saying the cabin was calling upon the other men to follow, saying it was no use to stand there talking, their minds were made up. Captain Baker remonstrated with them on the course they were making, explaining to them that an illegal combination at sea would, in all probability, bring down upon them a sentence of transportation, and stated that nothing would induce him to put back, when he was asked by one of the men, Who was going to work the ship, for that they would not. After sundry other remarks to the same purport, they all went forward, stating that they would do no more duty. James Massey being the last to leave the cabin, was asked if he agreed with the rest. John Math was the wheel from 8 A.M. to 10.30 A.M., one relieving him, when four bells were struck. At 10.30 A.M. the chief mate went forward to see if they were going to turn to, when they refused, John Thompson saying, 'Put the ship's head east-north-east half

east, and see how soon we'll turn to then.' At seven bells, 11.30 A.M., the ship was pumped out by the first and second officers, Parker (one of the old hands), the steward, and A. Chilton, apprentice, the crew by their refusal running the risk of allowing the water to wash up to

the bottom of the cargo, the ship rolling heavily at the time. Some of the men were sitting at the door of the forecastle at the time, smoking, and talking to the steward. The object of the men was only to intimidate Capt. Baker and compel him by their refusal of duty, to take the ship into a port; they having, previous to leaving Callao, received two months' wages (£16) each in advance. At noon the men went to dinner, no one coming to relieve the wheel, which was taken by Parker, by Captain Baker's orders, and he remained there until 4 P.M., no one relieving him at 1 P.M. The chief mate was sent forward to inform the men that the captain wished to speak to them, when they all came into the cabin. Captain Baker asked them if they were still of the same mind, when they said they were, particularly Storrs and Thompson, the latter repeating a great deal of what has been previously mentioned in the presence of the first and second officers, and stating that he did not want to carry the men to Valparaiso, as other ports would do as well. Captain Baker stated that he should be unfortunate at any time as to be compelled to put back, that Callao would be the port he should go to, as the cargo being the property of the Peruvian Government, they would take measures to punish the men for their misconduct. Captain Baker then stated distinctly his determination to proceed; that he and his officers would pump the ship out; that he would let her drift round Cape Horn, and trust to picking up a few hands from outward-bound ships; and also telling the men that if they did not work they should not eat; when John Mitchell said it was more than he dare do to keep them without provisions. Captain Baker said he had made up his mind upon that point; and then told the men saying that they would not get any provisions, said that he would not let the men who came off and attempted to take anything. He said also that he was aware that the men had fire-arms in the forecastle, having heard a shot fired the day the ship left Callao. Thompson stated that it was he who fired, and that he had been in the habit of carrying fire-arms in other ships he had been in. Andrew Storrs stated that Captain Baker was not going to frighten them, and that he feared death as little as any man, and that if they came off it would be a headache; when Captain Baker warned him that he would probably lose his life in the attempt. Other remarks were made by both parties, Captain Baker advising the men to return to their duty. Thompson and Storrs, however, eventually rang the bell at 10.30 P.M.—The men again went into the forecastle, refusing duty at 11 P.M. The men were again after, wanted to know from Capt. Baker whether the above occurrences had been logged, and, if they turned to, whether any steps would be taken against them on their arrival in England, and whether their wages would be paid. Captain Baker replied that it would depend on their subsequent conduct; that they had committed a very serious offence; but that, if they did their duty properly for the future, no notice would be taken of the affair. Upon this the men returned to their duty, after leaving the ship without hands to manage her in the worst of bad weather coming on, and endeavouring to compel the ship to return to port by their threats of not doing more duty, and, thereby causing the owners many hundreds of pounds' expense—set the ship to repair the forecastle, which had been split in the morning when and unless for repairing the officers having been engaged in repairing it, the men refused to do it."

Mr. Pelham said it appeared to him there was a clear case of mutiny on the 23rd of July, and the men had incurred a forfeiture of wages.

After some further proceedings, Thomas the complainant was sworn, and said that the crew only wanted the captain to put back to Valparaiso for new sails and cordage, for both were defective; and that, after the affair was over, Captain Baker promised, on the word of a gentleman, not to seek for any forfeitures.

Captain Baker said the sails and cordage were good, and that he was 600 miles from Valparaiso when the crew asked him to put into that port.

After some discussion, a compromise was recommended. The parties accordingly retired, and it was understood that Captain Baker would not pay the wages, except upon an order by the magistrate.

ODESSA.

ODESSA, from its geographical position and natural capabilities the most important town in Southern Russia, is situated in 44°33' degrees north latitude, and in 39°42' east longitude, at the western extremity of the Bay of Aitsch, and a few miles to the northward of the confluence of the river Dniester with the Black Sea. From the days of Peter the Great, the successive emperors perceived the necessity of having a port upon the Euxine; but it was not until after the infamous partition of Poland, and the treaty of 1791, by which the Crimea, that Odessa became important as an outlet for Russian manufactures, and the port of all the products of Asia Minor, Egypt, and the still further East, the Black Sea, in one of her bays, survived the small village of Klim Bay, and, with her usual acuteness, determined it should be converted into a highly-flourishing city. Its position on a declivity sloping gently to the shore offered facilities for laying out spacious streets—still unpaved—and erecting rows of terraces; whilst its fine bay, with firm-anchored, capable of sheltering eight hundred ships, and a depth of water at all times for first-rate men-of-war, marked it both as a naval and commercial station. The Emperor Alexander completed what Catherine had projected. The Duke de Richelieu, an emigrant from France during the Reign of Terror, was appointed Governor; and under his auspices the Cathedral of St. Nicholas, a Lyceum for the education of youth, and schools for the Jews, were built, and to these erected for an Agricultural Society called Pirogov and Moldovansky, where the corn and grain of the Ukraine are stored previous to its exportation to the European ports.

The population of Odessa amounts to 70,000; consisting of native Russians, French, English, and Italians, and as a matter of course, in all towns where commerce flourishes, Armenians and Jews.

WRECK OF THE EVA.

THE steamer Eva left Greenwich with a crew numbering fourteen men, together with the captain, Mr. Fisher, his wife, his sister-in-law, Miss Herd, and the steward, John McKenzie, making a total of eighteen souls. She proceeded on her course satisfactorily until night, when she encountered the dreadful gale that then raged in the Channel, during which time she strained and laboured to the extent that caused considerable alarm among the crew. Between seven and eight o'clock on the morning of Wednesday week she was struck by a heavy sea, followed by a loud report, which was found to have been caused by the breaking of the keel right in the centre; the vessel, in fact—to use the language of one of the rescued sailors, in narrating the occurrence—"having broken her back." The entire framework and body of the ship immediately began to give way, and the water poured in so quickly that in a short time the cabin and saloon were filled. The captain, on discovering the irreparable nature of the injury, directed the crew of distress to be made, and the life boat to be lowered. His orders were promptly obeyed. The signal flag was run up to the mizzen-peak, and the life-boat was safely lowered; but, in the hurry and excitement of the moment, three of the men jumped into her incautiously, and she was unfortunately upset; and before any effort could be made to recover her, she drifted away. The signal-flag was observed by the Prince steamer and a fishing-trawler. The mate and the steward of the Eva then dropped a second boat, into which they succeeded in getting safely, but had scarcely done so when a third seaman leaped into her, and she was also upset. The unfortunate man, whose want of presence of mind led to the overturning of this second boat, was not to be seen again; while the mate, who had been up after great exertion, were enabled to get into the second boat, to which they clung with desperate tenacity. Those who remained on the deck, including the captain and the two ladies, seeing there was no hope from the boats, and finding that the wind was rapidly breaking up and sinking, lashed themselves to spars and loose planks, and shortly before she went down committed themselves to the waves, in the hope of being soon picked up by the Prince steamer, which they had previously seen bearing down upon them. The Prince, however, which reached the spot ten minutes after the Eva went down, was unable to save a single soul, her boats being successively destroyed either in lowering or by the heavy seas. To the noble and gallant conduct of the crew of the fishing-trawler, Emerald Isle, is due the saving of rescuers who were in the sea six hours, overcame many difficulties and dangers that would have appalled less intrepid hearts, and which defeated the efforts of an experienced captain, with a numerous and efficient crew, five boats, and all the resources of a powerful steamer at his command. About half past seven o'clock on that morning the men on board saw the distress-signal made by the Eva. They pulled in their nets, and proceeded as quickly as possible towards the vessel. They arrived close by her at about a quarter past nine o'clock, and just in time to see her break right across, and go down in the centre, the stern and stern being the last to disappear. They ran their smack in among the floating spars, to which the people were clinging, and in a few minutes got out their frail little boat, scarcely fourteen feet in length. Two of the men belonging to the trawler, Carroll and Collins, got into this miserable boat, the escape of which, is, in a sea, a most heroic exploit. They were soon seen to be almost miraculously safe, and while Carroll scolded about from spar to spar, Collins was engaged in dredging in the men that could be saved. They were engaged searching about for upwards of two hours, until they were satisfied that no others were near to whom they could render any aid. Then, and not till then, they returned to the smack. Nothing was heard by their humane labours, and only anxious to ascertain if there was one more whom they could preserve, they tacked, and proceeded towards a dark object, which gradually became more and more distinct, till at length they saw a young man firmly holding on by the keel of an upturned boat. On seeing his deliverers approach, he gave a faint cheer, or rather cry, of welcome, and in a few minutes more he was safe on the deck of the trawler. He proved to be the steward, who, it will be recollect, got with the mate and a third man, who was drowned, into the second boat that upset.

OBITUARY.

SIR RICHARD JENKINS, K.C.B.—Sir R. Jenkins, Knight Commander of the Bath, and many years one of the directors of the East India Company, died at his residence, Blackheath Park, on Friday week, in his sixty-ninth year. Sir Richard filled the office of chairman in 1839, and received the order of the Bath for diplomatic services in India, principally through the war of 1817-18.

CARLYLE'S MOTHER.—We record with sincere regret the demise of Mrs. Carlyle, mother of the distinguished author, at Scotland, near Eddlethorpe, on Christmas-day. Her two sons, John and Thomas, the latter of whom is the author of various translations from the German, were both deeply-attached to their mother, and had waited on her for a month with the most exemplary and patient love. Thomas Carlyle arrived from his residence in Chelsea a few days before the last scene, and on the spot where he was born witnessed the departure of a mother who had the satisfaction, many years before her death, of seeing her children rise to a proud and well-merited distinction.

MR. G. P. HARDING, THE ARTIST.—We have to announce the death of this well-known artist, which happened on the 23rd ultimo. He was pre-eminent in the copying of ancient and historical pictures, as also in miniatures after Isaac Oliver, Holbein, &c. Amongst the most elaborate of his works is the family picture of George Clifford, Duke of Cumberland, and Margaret Russell, his Comtesse, and the Book of the Prince of Wales, in the old missal style, from Edward of Caernarvon to his Royal Highness Albert Prince of Wales. He was upwards of nine years in the completion of this elaborate work of art, which is now in the possession of Her Majesty.

Theatres, and Green-Room Gossip.

In the theatrical world no change has taken place, save and except the appearance of the little fry who begin to visit and applaud the pantomimes after the first week of their appearance, and add not a little to the enjoyment by their uncheckled laughter and unsophisticated applause. Their loud remarks, their ever-clapping palms, beget mirth in themselves, and make us almost young again, as we see revived in them the joys that we ourselves knew in our childhood.

The pantomime at the Haymarket has gained much by judicious entertainment, and now plays one hour less than on the first night. The tricks at the Princess's, which are really and truly surprising, are nearer done than they were at first, and the Surrey increases mightily in popular favour; indeed, the palm for pantomime this year is fairly contended for between the Princess's and this house. Messrs. Shepherd and Creswick have certainly succeeded in affording an excellent entertainment for their patrons on the Surrey side of the Thames.

In mentioning the various productions, the clever offspring of Flexmore should not be omitted. The pantomime at the Strand Theatre may readily be considered a wonder, when the size of the stage is taken into consideration; and the acting of the juvenile troupe is not a little attractive to the children in the boxes who, with delight, see what others of their own age can do. Mr. Allerton (or, as the bills say, Miss Isaacs) has certainly obtained a prize in Mr. Hodson, the Irish comedian. We regret that this gentleman's name so nearly approaches that of our friend Hudson for many may think it is assumed to mislead; but be the fact as it may, he is really a very good actor, and likely some day to take a good position in the Irish theatre. The author of the pantomime has gained some triumphs in the transplanted of the clever little folks from unknown districts to the Olympic Theatre; and we had next to him, as one likely to prove a hit, Mr. Hodson, who adds a little to the attractions of the Strand Theatre. Miss Isaacs sings as well as ever; but we cannot say we admire the pieces she has hitherto selected, or the music which has been written for her. "The Emigrant's Dream" is a worn-out tale, without much plot, and wholly devoid of interest; "The Pet of the Palace," save and except Miss Isaacs' one song and dance, unworthy of repetition. Flexmore has lost none of his freshness by his trip to Paris.

Speaking of rising comedians, it is a strange and lamentable fact to remark that most aspirants fail in the light comedy line, this makes us apprehensive. We are aware of the difficulty of finding a character which the many requisites are centred, yet that such persons exist we cannot doubt. Jones, Vining, Elliston, Green, and at least a dozen others fill this essential part of the cast some thirty years ago. To-day we have not one; and hence, perhaps, the great difficulty of producing good comedies. Leigh Murray might have filled up this hiatus, but he has preferred versatility. Charles Mathews and Wigan, both adapted to this branch have abdicated in favour of a more eccentric line of performance; and our only really good-looking rattle, Vining, has fallen into the vale of years, and has, we fear, completely retired from the stage. The same may almost be said of the "old men." Farren has left no successor; Dowton, no one worthy to fill his place. Tilbury and Co. are indeed sadly inferior to that once-favoured line. Frank Mathews may be funny; and is so; but he could no more take some of those parts which the performers filled than Charles Kean could hope to fill his talented father.

This season we are to be inundated with monologues. Mrs. Gibbs (late Miss Graddon), Mr. Phillips, and Mr. Hume are to entertain us with German tales and sketches, variously illustrated and arranged. Mr. Smith in Leicester-square gives out his "Mont Blanc" in opposition to that of Mr. Albert Smith, while the latter is about to shift his scene from the snow regions to Constantinople. Mr. Bunn is to give us the result of his observations during his American trip; while a host of musical and literary lecturers clamber for patronage.

Private theatricals are also in the ascendant during this month, and numerous and fashionable are the *particulars* of which we have heard. But we are not to be allured into alluding to them by name.

To particularise the different Christmas novelties would be a work of supererogation in a weekly newspaper.

On the morning after their appearance, the plot of each was elaborately given by every daily journal, and a critique added.

We have not only visited but revisited them, but decline giving a twice-told tale; contenting ourselves by the following brief hints respecting the attractive merits of each theatre, without criticising the several pantomimes and Christmas pieces in detail.

Druny Lane.—Harlequin Humming "Top," an uninteresting pantomime. The size of the stage betrays paucity in the grouping; the costumes and scenery indifferent good. Still there is always something peculiar in the look of the old theatrical fare. Miss Cushman is the chief attraction in London; Frank Mathews, far beyond the average of players. Miss Mathews' voice well worth hearing; and the Hall of Fairies perfectly dazzling. The posturers first-rate, and an unequalled treat to those who admire the acrobatic art.

We very sincerely regret the production of the "Begging Letter." The scenery was the best that we have seen in Drury Lane for many years; the acting and *mise en scène* careful. Miss Featherstone, by her lively contrast, occasionally lightened the piece. George Bennett made the most of a part which, in less able hands, would have been revolting; and Mr. Young promises to be a hit; but, take it as a whole, the piece is one of the most harrowing specimens of a moribund school of art.

The Haymarket.—A really well-written pantomime, and the opening scenes very comic. Miss Lydia Thompson, a charming little actress.

The Lyceum.—To the lovers of good scenery this theatre presents the greatest charm ever displayed. Nothing can equal the Hall of Seaweed; it is worth travelling a hundred miles to see. The piece itself unequal to Phelan's other works. "A Bachelor of Arts," too fine, too poetical, for young folks; and the last piece fairly worn out.

The Princess's decidedly displays the best tricks and transformations of any theatre in London. "The Corsican Brothers," however, is not a good selection to produce at this time. It is full and dangerous superstitions should not impress the minds of children.

The Adelphi.—It plot and language may be dispensed with, the novelty here is excellent. The dresses, scenery, singing, and dancing all perfectly acting, would doubtless be equally so, were there any story to enact.

Mr. Webster deserves much praise for the splendid manner in which he has got up a piece he should never have selected. Taking her in his various phases during the whole evening, Madame Celeste is one of the most wonderful actresses on the stage. If the reader has not already heard the scene wonders of the "Sea of Ice," and the wonderful grace of "La Dame du Torreador," he will not regret a visit.

The Olympic.—The opening of the pantomime here is very pleasing, but the comic scenes fall far short of that compliment. It is a pity that the comic scenes fall far short of that compliment.

The New Strand.—Of the "Irish Emigrant" we have already spoken, and we soon hope to see it replaced by a better piece.

The pantomime, produced and supported by Flexmore, is decidedly good. Miss Isaacs, as a Norman peasant, *en sabot*, sings and dances delightfully the last piece.

The Surrey.—Taking it altogether, the pantomime at this theatre is the best this season. When the noisy audience, which mar all pleasure

during the first week, retire from the field, we strongly recommend our young friends to pay a visit to the Surrey.

Asbury's.—The performances of the elephants at this theatre are, beyond doubt, the most extraordinary exhibitions ever brought before the British public.

The Linwood Gallery, Leicester-square, is now exhibiting a panorama of the "Tone of Europe" of the most gigantic dimensions, designed and painted by Mr. J. R. Smith. It is executed in a strikingly truthful manner, and far outstrips all Mr. Smith's previous productions, not only for the general correctness of the views, but for the artistic manner in which they are sketched. We start from Dover, pass into all the nooks and corners of "la belle France," reach Germany, ascend Mont Blanc, afterwards voyaging to Italy, visiting Rome, Milan, and indeed seeing everything or place worth looking at on our route. The entertainment is culminated by an agreeable lecture, delivered by Mr. Smith.

Mr. Brooke will reappear at Drury Lane on the 30th instant; and, according to the present arrangement of the management, will continue to perform till April. From the period of Mr. Brooke's performances till Parliament rises, opera, both English and Italian, will occupy the stage, to be succeeded by equestrianism; which, with a *bad masqué*, will conclude the year; we sincerely hope, successfully.

Mr. Allerton, well known at the West-end, and who has already fitted up more than a score of scenes of amusement, is endeavouring to get patrons for the project of creating another Olympia. Surely we have already one too many. As a philosopher, he should rather buy out one of those now existing than add to their number.

Rolson, we are happy to learn, has signed an agreement with Wigan for three years.

Alford has taken a lease of the Strand Theatre for ten years. He is about to enlarge and improve it. For this purpose he will close in February. Miss R. Isaacs goes to the Surrey under Miss Romer.

We regret to state that a recent domestic calamity of the most affecting nature events M. Mario from appearing before the public.—*Galiganai.*

REVIEW OF NEW MUSIC.

The Creation. Edited by JOHN BISHOP, Cocks and Co., Simpkin and Co. and *The Messiah.* Edited by JOHN BISHOP, Cocks and Co., Simpkin and Co.

It is too late to recommend Haydn and Handel, as it is not too late to applaud such excellent editions of their great oratorios as the present. The volumes are uniformly and handsomely printed on thick paper—compendious enough, and yet not so close as to embarrass the reader. More than this, in a day of cheap books these volumes may decidedly be classed among the very cheapest. Both oratorios are admirably arranged.

We have also received an edition of the *Messiah* from Mr. Novello, in a very handsome embossed binding.

Hamilton's Modern Instructions for the Pianoforte. *Hamilton's Modern Instructions for Singing.* These works are also as well known as Cocks' *Modern Instructions for the Organ.* The editor has an authority on the subject of which they are so cleverly and clearly treat.

Flowers of the Ball Room, for the Violin. London: J. Jewell and Letchford.—This is a very seasonable and serviceable production. It contains a complete set of quadrilles, a set of waltzes, a favourite schottische, a charming redowa, a capital galope, an excellent polka, and a world-renowned country-dance. They are all well arranged.

"The Magic of Home." Ballad. London: J. Jewell and Letchford.—This is the last composition of poor Blewitt, the composer of some of the most charming ballads that ever melted the heart in a drawing-room. Through the last, it is certainly not the least specimen of his genius and art. It is an exquisite ballad, and, as a composition, far beyond the ballad specimens of the day.

SUPPOSE.

SUPPOSE a young foreigner crosses the sea, In a vessel with manmorn not quite overladen, And, coming to England, the good luck hath him. To win the kind heart of a true English maiden.

Suppose that her hand goes the way of her heart, And friends who have loved her from childhood right deadly Settled gladly on him, from all charges apart;

An income—well I'll say thirty thousand pounds yearly. Suppose they invite him to *banquet and feare*,

Exhibition, review—every sight you can mention; Present him with jewels, and pictures, and plate,

And load him, in fact, with all kinds of attractions.

Suppose that they take him to lay a first stone, And are eager to offer him trawl and hammer;

And when he makes speeches, they honour the tone,

Applaud the good sense, and forget the bad grammar.

Suppose all is done that the best friends can do,

From publishing petitions to the royal page-day,

In part, that he pleased them all round at first view,

In part for the love which they bear to Dame Durden;

That so wisely and well she administers rule,

Understanding her both in letter and spirit,

That in Guardian (suppose that his name is John Bull)

Would floor the best man who should question her merit.

Now, suppose that his wife has a trust of her own,

Conferred by her Guardian, not much of a burden,

Responsible, though, to that Guardian alone,

Like the place Mr. Jarndyce bestowed on Dame Durden;

That so wisely and well she administers rule,

Understanding her both in letter and spirit,

That he talks to his wife on her Guardian's concerns,

Over which she would have unrestricted dominion,

And is oftentimes greatly displeased when he learns

She has done any business without his opinion;

That when she's disposed, at the urgent desire

Of her Guardian, to order some hostile proceedings,

He seeks to dissuade her because it appears

Some friends of his own wish to settle the pleadings;

That he's losing the name so quickly acquired

By a gentleman's high-minded scorn of disguises,

Giving up the frank bearing old Bull so admired,

For mysteries the heavy old fellow despises.

Supposing all this—or a portion, at least—

Mr. Pauch, who knows neither to fear nor to flatter,

Believes that the wild wind will set strong from the East.

The day John Bull Jarndyce gets wind of the master.

Punch.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE AT SYDENHAM.

This week select a few interesting subjects from the Crystal Palace at Sydenham, chiefly because they admit of brief description, while our space for the present number is unusually limited.

The first illustration is a copy of a crocusing Venus (antique) from the Louvre. 2, Torso of one of the Sons of Niobe (also antique), from



the Glyptothek at Munich. The centre illustration is a fine colossal statue from the Refeining's-Halle (Hall of Freedom) at Kelheim. It is the work of Professor Haller of Kelheim.

Of the two doorways, the first is from the south-east transept of Rochester Cathedral, leading into the Chapter-house. It was erected by John de Shapley, bishop of the see about the year 1352. The female figure on the right has been explained as symbolising the abolition of the Mosaic dispensation, from the inverted tables of the law; the figure on the right hand, as a bishop elevating the Church. The figures in the arch represent four bishops, benefactors of the see, with angels, &c.

The second doorway is from Kelpeck Church, a very small building in a retired part of the country, about eight miles from Hereford; the precise date of its erection is not known, probably the eleventh century. It is principally interesting from the grotesque carvings of figures and animals, as seen in this doorway, which is the principal one, at the west end.

DICKENS AT BIRMINGHAM.

The good people of Birmingham may well congratulate themselves on the manner in which they have been spending the Christmas week. While the inhabitants of our other large towns have been contenting themselves with pantomimes and the other usual amusements of the season, it has been their good fortune and privilege to be gathered together like one great family into their fine hall, listening to the most admired fiction-writer of his time, who had come down among them on a mission of most considerable gravity. The author of the "Christmas Carol" which the new Birmingham Institute has yet found is Mr. Charles Dickens. Apparently, by no other native than that deep sympathy which breathes through his works for the humbler classes, has he collected and placed at the disposal of the committee a larger sum than any other subscriber. For its benefit, on the evenings of Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday week, he presented himself to the inhabitants of Birmingham, in their Town-hall, and, to their great gratification, read his "Christmas Carol" and his "Cricket on the Hearth." The former, selected for Tuesday, was repeated on Friday; and on both occasions, but especially the last, was received with unbounded admiration. The latter did not tell so strongly, but was nevertheless favourably received. During the three nights of his appearance 6000 people attended; and the spacious hall, which on the first two nights was filled with the wealthier classes, was on the third almost exclusively reserved for the working-men, the only class that had unprecedented thing now-a-days to hear authors reading their own works in public. The simple fashion of barefaced times is past, and the fastidiousness of modern ideas finds or fancies something egotistical in such displays,

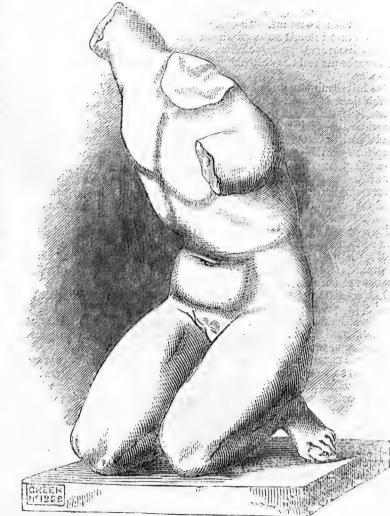
The appearance of Mr. Dickens at Birmingham is a return to the practice of the older time, while the benevolent object in view is a complete answer to any insinuation of egotism.

To the characteristics of his genius Mr. Dickens adds an excellent voice, distinct, well-toned, and audible to a very large assembly without apparent effort, and which he modulates with much eloquence and skill. His manner, also, is perfectly self-possessed and unembarrassed. Practice in amateur theatricals enables him to introduce into dialogues and conversations especially a judicious and enlivening amount of dramatic effect; but this he has the good taste not to carry too far, nor in the actor to sink the individuality of the author. Bringing these personal advantages to bear upon such a work as the "Christmas Carol," it is wonderful that Mr. Dickens should have achieved a triumphant success in the benevolent object which took him to Birmingham. He has not only unconverted "Serenades" to the public, but has demanded some £300 or £400 for the fund for the new institute, and he has filled the minds and hearts of the working-classes especially with an appreciation of his talents which they never could have gathered from his writings.

Mr. Dickens prefaced his reading with the following observations:—"My good friends, when I first imparted to the committee of the projected institute my particular wish that on one of the evenings of my readings here the main body of my audience should be composed of working-men and their families, I was animated by two desires: first, by the wish to have the great pleasure of meeting you face to face at this Christmas time, and accompany you myself through one of my little Christmas books; and, second, by the wish to have an opportunity of stating publicly in your presence, and in the presence of the committee, my earnest hope that the institute will, from the beginning, recognise one great principle, strong in reason and justice, which I believe to be essential to the very life of such an institution. It is, that the working-classes

responsibility like an honest man, and will most honestly and manfully discharge it. I now proceed," he concluded, "to the pleasant task, to which, I assure you, I have looked forward for a long time."

And a pleasant task it was certainly—pleasantly discharged, and most agreeably accepted. The audience never wandered for a moment.



RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

On Monday last there were no less than three accidents on different lines in this country, which may be attributed, so far as we learn, to three distinct causes. The most serious, in every way, was that on the Midland Counties—a collision between an express and a luggage train. The weather was exactly that most favourable for the occurrence of accidents. The express, for instance, is full of snow, and the frost, and the signal-lights could not be seen at a very short distance. A passenger train due at Rugby at 6.35 was behind its time in consequence of the state of the rails, and at Harborough, a station three miles from Rugby, was brought to a standstill by a breakage in one of the front wheels of a horse-box. This took place, it is supposed, within a few minutes of seven o'clock. Close upon the heels of the passenger-train was a luggage-train, which was fortunately stopped in time. But the next train due was the express, which leaves Leicestershire at 7.40, and runs through to Rugby without stopping at any intermediate station. As it happened, it did not leave Leicester until a minute before eight o'clock—more than an hour after the accident had occurred at Harborough. But, although there is communication by telegraph between Rugby and Leicestershire, and abundance of time was given for the despatch of a message, it does not appear that any intimation was given of a stoppage on the line. A fog signal had been placed on the line, which was happily seen by the driver of the express-engine. Except for this, the consequences must have been disastrous.

The second case was on the Great Northern, and is described by Mr. Spring Rice, one of the passengers. After leaving Hitchin a wheel came off one of the carriages. At first the impression was that there had been some obstruction, but the real fact was very soon ascertained. "By means of shouting and putting handkerchiefs out of the window," the attention of the guard was excited, and the train was stopped; but still it was allowed to run more than a mile before its speed was slackened.

In the third case, which occurred on the Great Western, we are told that the accident was the result of action on the part of the guard. One of the three parts of the tire of the wheel broke through the floor of the carriage with a fearful crash. Here again the guard was in happy ignorance, and the train might have gone down (at express speed) had not a gentleman "attracted the attention of the travelling-porter by making a flag of his railway-wrapper." A writer in the *Times*, who has furnished an account of the accident, suggests that the public would have increased security if each carriage had its guard.



shall, from the first unto the last, have a share in the management of an institution which is designed for his benefit, and which calls itself by its name. I have no fear here of being misunderstood—or of being supposed to say too much or too little. If there comes a time when any man could of himself much for a good and for the welfare of society, which I greatly doubt, that time is unquestionably past. It is in the fusion of different classes, without confusion; in the bringing together of employers and employed; in the creating of a better common understanding among those whose interests are identical, who depend upon each other, who are vitally essential to each other, and who never can be in unnatural antagonism without deplorable results, that one of the chief principles of a mechanics' institution should consist. In this world, a great deal of bitterness among us arises from an imperfect understanding of one another. Erect in Birmingham a great educational—properly educational—educational of the feelings as well as of the reason—to which all orders of Birmingham men contribute, in which all orders of Birmingham men, whether all orders of Birmingham men are faithfully represented, and you will see a sample of concord here which will be a model edifice to the whole of England. Contemplating as I do the existence of the Artisans' Committee, which not long ago considered the establishment of the institute so sensibly, and supported it so heartily, I earnestly intreat the gentlemen—earnest, I know, in the good work, and who are now among us—by all means to avoid the great shortcoming of similar institutions; and, in asking the working-men for his confidence, to set him the example, and give him theirs in return. You will judge for yourselves if I promise too much for the working-man when I say that he will stand by such an enterprise with the utmost of his strength, his heart, his soul, and his spirit; that I am sure he will need no charitable aid or condescending patronage, but will readily and cheerfully pay for the advantages which it confers; that he will support himself in individual cases where he feels that the adverse circumstances around him have rendered it necessary; in a word, that he will feel his





CITY PORTRAITS AND CITY PICTURES.

"MATHEWS AT HOME" AGAIN.

There will be many of my readers who cannot fail to remember the admirable, laughter-exciting Charles Mathews of the thousand-and-one characters—he who could wring fun and humour out of a Margate hoy or a country inn, who could transform misery into mirth, and force a joke out of an oyster. The witty Charles died, but his art survived him; his mantle has fallen on others as ready, as keen observers of human nature, as apt profilers by the faults and frailties of their fellow-kind, as of the Adelphi. His successors may not, perchance, raise as much merriment, they may not send people to their homes at night as fully impressed with the humorous side of human nature, but they are, at any rate, as active and as ready at the assumption of any indefinite number of characters as was the real original of the Strand.

Yes, Mathews is "at home" again in the City, and has been so for a number of years past. I know him well, and admire him as he deserves; though I fear the community at large are not by any means aware of his talents, by no means aware of the mass of versatile skill that is displayed at their disposal; and this, too, in spite of some very strenuous efforts at publicity in the daily journals. The object of the sketch is to endeavour to do justice to our "City Mathews," by introducing him to a large portion of the public, and by making them sensible of his claims upon their attention.

My hero's name, as far as I can ascertain from various metropolitan authorities, is Algernon Sydney Sharpe; but he is so frequently met with under different styles and in various characters that his original patronymic will be well lost; and perhaps it signifies but little to my present purpose—at any rate, this name will serve as well as any other. His connexions are of most undoubted character, and may be found amongst some of the leading civic functionaries of the day. He has been well known by most of the Lord Mayors, and by a host of members of the House of Aldermen, and throughout the ranks of the officials of the Mansion House and Guildhall. He has had some most interesting interviews with several of the Commissioners of Bankruptcy, and has been frequently entertained by the governors of the Whitecross-street and Cold-hathfield establishments for months at a time; indeed, so much is he an object of official solicitude that at one period, when he was placed in a very trying position, with every prospect of being much fettered in his movements, a high judicial functionary strongly advised him to try a voyage to the South, offering, on behalf of his Majesty's Government, to defray the whole of the expense attending the trip. However, thanks to the services of a professional friend, Algernon Sydney has saved the necessity of so long an absence from the scenes of his public usefulness, and his system may now be pronounced as active and healthy as it ever was.

To describe my hero's personal appearance would be an extremely difficult task; for he has figured under so many varied aspects that I see to have lost sight of his original self amidst the maze of assumed characters. Neither should I be much more successful in pointing out the actual localities of his impersonations—as well might one endeavour to indicate the resting-place of any particular Will-o'-the-wisp. Yesterday he was figuring in Ely-place, Holborn; to-day he is addressing his friends, the public, from Seething-lane, Tower-street; to-morrow may find him dicing his notes from Coleman-street; next week he may be heard of in the vicinity of Lincolns-inn-fields; Spots the most retired, thofurthor the most frequented, lonely, blind streets, busy, bustling lanes, old moss-grown cressets, lively, giddy young squares—all are alike the abiding haunts of the famous Algernon Sydney, according to the cast of characters he may lay the names to taking.

My hero's power is in the clerical line, and not less successful. These characters are mostly carried on in central business-looking lanes—Swithin's or Turnwheel-lane, for instance—where he will impersonate a respectable sort of loan and discount broker to admiration. The perfect ease with which he introduces himself to the ecclesiastical world would be marvellous, were it not explained by the long practice which he has had. His advertisements in the *Times* are so smooth and polished, that such an air of disinterested philanthropy running through them, that the thrifty young curate on seventy-five pounds per annum, and the old, rather dilapidated parson on five hundred, are equally captivated. They resolve to pay a visit to the famous man in Swithin's-lane on the first opportunity. Algernon is, of course, proud of their acquaintance; and although but half an hour since he was "nailing" one or two rather heavy bargains in his other office in Ely-place, attired in gay costume, he appears now so reserved, so unassuming, with a dash of the pious about him, that his clerical friends are quite thrown off their guard. They both come on the same errand. The poor curate is need of seventy pounds; he is about to be married, and wishes to furnish his humble home afresh. The rector wants three hundred pounds, or some less worthy object. The result of one negotiation will repay a hundred such. The curate is told with a tone of regret that so small a sum as seventy pounds is not admissible in the books of the Agency; but that, if he will doable it, or say one hundred and fifty pounds, the thing,

although scarcely worth their notice, could be managed. The bait is too tempting to be rejected: the terms, the time, and the names of referees are arranged, and the affair is as good as settled. But Algernon is a master of his craft; he is in no hurry about the thing. Like a skilful angler, he gives his victim more line, allows him to play a while with the bait, and only lands him when he feels there is nothing further to be gained by delay. The final interview is so managed as to be delayed over the usual banking-hours; and when the cheque, filled in for the amount of the bill given, less the discount of four per cent., is dry, and the man is about to leave the Agency, the great and venerable-street tells the half hour to the curate. "The banks are closed; and it is not until the following morning, or perhaps the day after, that the clerical dabbler in discounts hears with astonishment that the bank knows nothing of the drawer of the cheque. The Agency is sought in vain. The name is painted over; the bird has flown; our Mathews is "at home" again, in some other of his many parts, obliging no end of anxious applicants for loans, or situations, or partners in business, or partners for life, at one other of his branch offices in Ely-place or Seething-lane. As for the poor curate, if he does rightly, will apply to Mr. Perry, of the Bankrupt Registry Office, Change-lane, Cornhill, who is a sort of public-private-detected broker, and who will do a great deal more of Algernon Sydney than I can do. He will, I am sure, return to his former chaplain; but not nearly so much as when the bill is presented as due by one Mr. Levy Screeve, with as much coolness and assurance as would have furnished the poor curate's house from garret to kitchen, if such impudent bairns could have been made to do duty for rosewood chairs and mahogany dining-tables. It is in vain the bewildered man talks of poverty, and swindlers, and so forth. There is the bill, and Mr. Levy Screeve rather thinks that signature is not to be denied; nor is it. The end may be imagined.

From Plutus versatile Mathews passes to Hymen, which character he takes as readily as any other. Fetter-lane is not an inappropriate nor an unbecoming match for the undutiful, young, and impudent, and continuous harvests than any other. A Secretary and Confidential Manager of the Metropolitan Matrimonial Alliance Association, Algernon Sydney Sharpe, Esquire, is as brilliant and fascinating in his garb and manner as he was before sordid and calm. The serpent has but cast his skin. The announcements of our Hymen appear in one or two Sunday papers, and but seldom in the daily journals. It would seem incredible, had I not full evidence of the fact before me, that these snare for the matrimonial alliance succeed in driving so many victims within their meshes; but there is proof enough in the frequent repetition of the deceptive advertisements.

How many matinees fresh sixteen, how many weary spinsters of now study two scores, how many widows of thirty five, how many young bachelors, enter the green-entained doors of the Metropolitan Matrimonial Alliance in Holborn-vine-place, Fetter-lane, is more than I am prepared to tell; but this much is quite certain, that a ponderous ledger and private correspondence book are being continually laboured at by a brace of facturin, knowing clerks, who can tell you at any moment how many spinsters make eighteen and sixteen, and how many widows add up to one pound five. Crown-pieces and half-sovereigns emit pleasant chinking sounds throughout the day. Muslim dresses, pink bonnets, and Paisley shawls that enter the private room of the Alliance in a state of downcast, doleful disaffection, emerge after a small concert of metallic sounds, radiant in sunny smiles of hope, as though the bonnet had been fresh trimmed and the shawl fresh dipped, dreaming of parish churches and orange-blossoms, and stopping before the first bonnet-maker's shop just to see which would be the most suitable.

Oh, what a tale could that heavy "private correspondence book" unfold! What a string of deceptions, frauds, disappointments, anxiety, and despair, has that ponderous ledger witnessed! The silent clerks could tell you how many ladies' maids and milliners' assistants have vainly flung down their all for young dark-whiskered husbands of some fortunes, dwelling in the ample domains of the Alliance's private letter-book. They could give a shrewd guess as to how many verdant bachelors have bribed this Hymen-nugget for interviews with some of the season's wittiest heroines and blooming widows who have committed their future happiness to his honourable keeping, and who are always ready for matrimonial alliance, yet, through some unforeseen accident, are never to be met with in one of the "private address-books" in the secretary's own travelling-case.

Sooner or later, as the fates or Algernon Sydney's clients ordain it, the tide of fortune turns in Honeysuckle-place. The merry metal chinking is no longer heard in the green-entained office. The heavy ledger and the private letter-book are removed to a cabin in a cab one dark night. Pink bonnets and Paisley shawls come out as they go in, dowdy and downcast; disappointed ladies' maids encounter disconsolate green-keepers; angry widows shun frantic like the deserted office of the Alliance, and find echoes, if not husbands, in defrauded clerks of a hundred acres—deluded tradesmen in a small way of business. The same poor tithe-pies pass across their paths; and if not all of them had houses, they are at any rate united at last in one common fitness of malignant hatred against all Matrimonial Alliance associations.

Moving from the western confines of the city, our Mathews will be found "at home" upon the eastern boundary. The Minorities has the honour of witnessing his next triumphs as the founder of the Harveyan United Nations and General Registry Offices and Loan and Investment Society. There is a hansom office in the Barbican, and another branch at Holborn-bars; and when they manage to knock up a decent amount of lively business, they don't profess any connexion with each other. If you will ask them; if you will look at them; if you will have seen the heads of the various branches meet after a long cloister at the "Ugly Mug" in Little Britain, know not that than. What the Minorities Mathews wants a reference in the matter of a loan, he refers his customer to the Barbican Mathews, who will be sure to return the compliment during the week. Sometimes the Minorities, just by way of a change, will refer to Holborn-bars, which in its turn coquettes with the Minorities and the Barbican.

Through the agency of these places every description of subscriber may find employment for their varied talents, from a paid attach to an embassy, to an errand-boy in the medical and knife-cleaning line. One might expect from the statement of the fluent Algernon Sydney that all the chief offices of the day in the United Kingdom were filled from the ranks of his subordinates. Nothing is too vast, nothing too minute, for his comprehensive agency. Again the golden and silver tide sets in towards his office; once more he is the master of the fate of many scores of her Majesty's liege but verdant subjects.

Algernon Sydney Sharpe, of the Minorities, is, according to his own account, on the best possible terms with the Barings, and the Rothschilds, and the Gurneys. He is quite at home in the Bank parlour, and on the most intimate terms with Lombard-street; so that one might imagine loans of any magnitude could be had at all times managed through his agency. But either Rothschild is short of funds or Barings is out of temper, or Lombard-street does not flourish. Even the "Empress" falls off, though not before a variety of birds have been plucked of their feathers. The Barbican Mathews, the agent of the Barbican, the agent, strong in his own resources, and on his Conservative principles, undertakes to create several snug sinecures on the Harveyan establishment, and puts them up to public competition. He induces an ambitious young man into a post of enormous trust, for which a deposit of not less than a hundred pounds in hard cash is required. The ambitious young man gets off with an old fifty; and when he comes to begin his duties, he is told that, as the work will be quite killing when he gets into it, he had better prepare himself by a couple of days at Greenwich fair. The truth is, the second young man has got on the morrow to deposit another "fifty" on the very same station of great trust. The duplicate fifty is paid, and another excursion to Greenwich is proposed and accepted, during which our Mathews of the Minorities exchanges signals with deputy Mathews of the Barbican, and sub-Mathews of Hol-

born, wherupon they too go off to Greenwich or some other fair, but forget to come back again.

These are but a few of the guises under which my hero is to be seen at home; "their name is legion," and volumes, instead of columns, would be wanted to chronicle them. Now he appears as an army clothier, under the title of "Sharp and Pike," then as an auctioneer and estate agent; anon as Sharpe, Dodge, and Co., wine and spirit merchants. Finally, he is at this moment figuring to some profit as the head and front of a Trade Protection Association, somewhere near Moor-gate-street, on the principle, doubtless, of "set a thief to catch a thief."

CHESS.

[Correspondents are requested to address all Communications to MR. KLING, 454, New Oxford-street.]

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

MAJOR.—We regret not finding room in our columns to insert your remarkable letter on the late match between Messrs. Harrwitz and Loewenthal.

PRIVATE.—The position by Herr Andersen is correct, but has appeared before. Your game would be a good one for an oversight on Black's fifteenth move, where he might have won a piece.

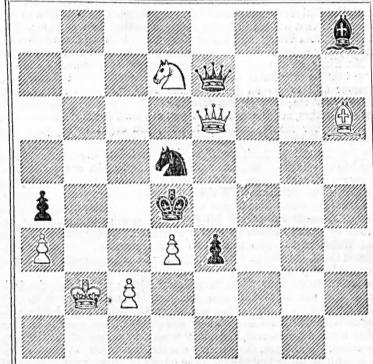
MESSRS. KEMPE (of University College), ROBINSON, HEALEY, and AMATEURS.—We are sorry to learn that you have not yet received your oversights on Black's fifteenth move.

INQUIRIES.—You are sure to meet with some one of your own strength at Kling's Chess Rooms, 454, New Oxford-street, which are numerously attended by chess-players of all ranks.

NO. IV.

PROBLEM BY F. HEALEY.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White moving first to checkmate in three moves.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM NO. III.

WHITE.

1. B to Q, second	1. R to Q, fourth, or (A.)
2. R takes P	2. K to Q, fourth (best)
3. Kt to Kt, eighth (check)	3. Q takes Kt.
4. R, sixth (check)	4. Q, interposes.

5. P, mates.

VARIATION A.

WHITE.	1. P to Q, sixth
2. R, takes P	2. R, takes P (best)
3. R, checks	3. Q, takes P, (best)

4. R, mates.

BLACK.

If K, to Q, fourth, for first move, White plays R, to K, fourth, and mates in two moves; if R, to B, fourth, R, checks, and Kt, mates.

BRILLIANT GAME PLAYED BETWEEN MR. HARRIS, SECRETARY TO THE RICHMOND CHESS CLUB, AND MR. DREW.

(From Mr. Drew.)

WHITE.	1. P to K, fourth
2. Kt to Q, third	2. Kt to Q, third
3. B, to Q, fourth	3. B, to Q, fourth
4. P, to Q, Kt, fourth	4. P, to Q, Kt, fourth
5. P, to K, fourth	5. P, to K, fourth
6. P, takes P	6. P, takes P
7. B, to K, Kt, third (w)	7. B, to K, Kt, third (w)
8. R, to Q, Kt, fourth	8. R, to Q, Kt, fourth
9. P, to K, fourth	9. P, to K, fourth
10. B, to Q, second	10. B, to Q, second
11. Kt to K, third	11. Kt to K, third
12. R, to Q, fourth	12. R, to Q, fourth
13. Castles	13. Castles
14. B, to K, Kt, fifth	14. B, to K, Kt, fifth
15. P, to K, Kt, third	15. P, to K, Kt, third
16. P, takes P	16. P, takes P
17. T, takes P	17. T, takes P
18. R, to Q, Kt, fifth	18. R, to Q, Kt, fifth
19. Q, to K, Kt, fourth (b)	19. Q, to K, Kt, fourth (b)
20. Q, to K, third	20. Q, to K, third
21. Q, R, to Q, square	21. Q, R, to Q, square
22. R, to Q, square	22. R, to Q, square
23. Q, to Q, R, seventh (e)	23. Q, to Q, R, seventh (e)
24. R, takes R	24. R, takes R
25. R, to K, H, third	25. R, to K, H, third
26. R, to K, H, P, (check)	26. R, to K, H, P, (check)
27. Q, to Q, fourth (d)	27. Q, to Q, fourth (d)
28. R, to K, square	28. R, to K, square
29. R, to K, square	29. R, to K, square
30. White resigns.	30. White resigns.

(a) Checking at this point is condemned by Mr. Staunton in his Handbook. (See Evans's Gambit.)
 (b) With the view of establishing himself on the King's side, he might have been more prudent, even if less attacking, to have remained at home—for example: Q, to K, second.
 (c) The only move to prolong the game.

AN INSTRUCTIVE LESSON.—The celebrated strike at the new Houses of Parliament lasted eight months, and cost the union, it is said, £50,000 in sterling money, and the men £10,000 in lost labour, and was productive of no good whatever, but, on the contrary, an incalculable amount of evil. Such a strike, we hope, will never occur again in London. It opened a breach between employers and workmen, and especially between foremen and journeymen, which ten years of uninterrupted prosperity has been scarcely able to heal. We wish the workmen in the North of England who are now pursuing a similar course with much greater recklessness of consequences, would learn a lesson from the history of this unhappy feud. And let us give them another note of warning. During the twenty years of its existence, the masons' union, we are credibly informed, has spent upwards of £100,000; but their wages have remained at the same uninterupted level.

BIDDING BY TELEGRAPH.—A striking illustration of the many uses to which the electric telegraph may be applied has just occurred for the first time, to our knowledge. At the sale of a vessel by Mr. Jackson, auctioneer of Whitehaven, at the Albion Hotel, one of the bidders, who was in Glasgow at the time, actually made his bidding by telegraph! The gentleman in question did not become the ultimate purchaser, not in consequence of any telegram, or *bidranda*, but solely from his declining to bid so high as the party to whom the vessel was ultimately knocked down.

INCOME OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—It is stated in the census report of religious worship, just issued, that the income of the Church of England, in 1851, was upwards of £5,000,000 per annum.

MARYLEBONE POOR LAW INQUIRY.

On Monday Mr. Alfred Austin resumed his inquiry into this case. Mary Kelahad deposited that she knew Garrett Walsh, and that he sold her an order for meat on the Friday before the death of the child, and that she gave him 4d. and half a quarter loaf for it. He was at the time coming out of the baker's with two loaves, which he also offered to sell her. She told him she had no money to buy the bread; but if he was distressed, and came up a little higher, she would try and find some one to buy it. Walsh said one loaf would do for him, and he wanted some money to buy tea and sugar.

Mr. James, the master-assistant-overseer, re-called and examined by the inspector.—It was the practice of persons receiving out-relief to go to the contractors personally for bread or meat, if capable to do so; but, in the event of sickness or infirmity, it was sent to the residence of the parties. Walsh came under the description of a casual pauper settled in the parish. His hours of attendance at the workhouse were from 9 to 5 daily, and it was the duty of the master to relieve casual emergent cases during his (Mr. Messer's) absence. In any emergent case after 6 o'clock it would be the duty of the gate porter, the moment an application was made, to submit the case to the master. Any case sent from the police-office was immediately attended to. It was witness's duty to sit in the workhouse, and receive applications for relief from the sights of the board, and the rota master.

After ordering relief, the inspectors attend to the inmates. No applicant could come before the rota without a letter from him, unless they sent a letter, or saw some of the board. The greater portion of the evidence given by Walsh upon oath was not founded in truth.

Mr. Austin.—The points which were untrue.—That about his statement that I attempted to thrust him out of the police-office is untrue. His statement that he communicated with me in the rota room, that wherein he denied receiving relief in kind and bread on the 18th of November, and that portion in which he declared that he was without food or lodging from Friday the 18th of November till the following Monday, is all equally untrue. The information he pleads he had was untrue. Mr. Kirk, the master, Saturday 1st, 1853, had a plastered head and chest were ill. He never said to me on Saturday the 19th, "Hare is my wife and child—look at me; we want something to eat." He said he wanted some meat and clothes, and I replied, "If you can walk about the streets with a pipe in your mouth, and buy tobacco, you ought to buy your own clothes."

By Mr. Russell.—I don't recollect if I stated to the rota anything about Walsh's habits. Did not recollect stating that he was never about the streets without a pipe in his mouth; but either he or Crawley the inspector, did so. Had known Walsh thirteen or fourteen years as a pauper, and during the whole time he was a scoundrel, coarse, insolent, and turbulent fellow. He never ill his time in a parish workhouse than endeavoured by work to obtain an honest livelihood. Every statement made about Walsh to the rota was made in his presence. He never contradicted them, but in a saucy manner, "I shall come into the house—you can't help me."

In answer to other questions, Mr. Messer said, in my opinion, the decision of the rota in Walsh's case was just. The statement as to why Walsh did not go whitewashing was a general observation in the presence of Walsh, as I was aware there was plenty of that work to be done at that time in York-court, and other places, by orders of the Sanitary Committee. Mr. Seace, the parish surveyor, had orders to employ persons in whitewashing foul places. The names of persons receiving relief are called alphabetically; and if they are not present, they do not, unless in cases of emergency distress, get their relief the next week following. In cases of emergency distress, the relief comes out of the poor pockets. This did not arise from any mismanagement, but from the fault of the applicants. Taking the name alphabetically enabled them to pay now as many poor in one hour as they formerly paid in four hours.

The Inspector said he had received a note from Mr. Poland, one of the guardians incalpated by the verdict of the coroner's jury, stating his desire to be examined, but his inability to attend that day on account of a domestic affliction. He would, therefore, adjourn the proceedings until he had notice of the time when Mr. Poland could attend.

The inquiry was then further adjourned.

THE CALORIC SHIP ERICSSON.—The *New York Journal of Commerce*, in reference to the Ericsson, says—"The problem as to the success of the Ericsson approaches a solution. The engine is now so nearly completed that a trial trip will probably be made next Tuesday or Wednesday, and Mr. Ericsson is in the best spirits, such as confidence of success inspires. The trials of the ship, and the practical working of the engine, have made show that the desired amount of pressure may be easily obtained, and a reliance is entertained that the ship will attain a speed equal to at least nine miles an hour, which will be a rate entirely satisfactory. We also learn that it has been determined to place the Ericsson on the route between New York and Havre, as an independent steamer, to replace the temporary vacancy occasioned by the destruction of the *Humboldt*."

A SNAKE IN A FIX.—A Texas correspondent of a New York paper gives the following snake story.—"One night, my wife and myself were awakened by a noise from the shelf which contained our small store of crockery, followed by a crash which showed that a great portion of our cups and plates had been flung to the floor. Struggling to discover what had caused the accident, I found a large snake coiled up on the shelf, which was extremely fat." He had crawled upon the shelf, attracted by a number of eggs which were scattered about. One of these he had swallowed; and in order to get at the next, he had put his head and a portion of his body through the handle of a jug which happened to stand between the coveted delicacies. The handle was just opened enough to let his body, in its natural state, slip evenly through, but not sufficient to let it pass when puffed out by the egg. In this position he had swallowed the second egg. His snakeship thus found himself unable to advance or retreat; and, in floundering about to escape from this novel stock, had caused the accident which had caused us. I, of course, proceeded at once to apply ordinary justice upon the interloper, but the eggs which he had swallowed were a dead loss."

THE CHURCHGATE BREAKWATER.—This gigantic work, commenced in 1783, suspended during the revolutionary tempest, resumed under the Empire, suspended once more during the whole period of the Restoration (1814), is at length terminated, after seventy years' expectation and forty-one of constant efforts. For a length of time the success of the undertaking had been called in question; disasters had caused apprehensions to be entertained that the sea would remain victorious in its desperate contest with the boldest attempt of human genius; but every disquietude of that nature may now be set aside, and all that remains is to consecrate the work to four generations.

It is known that the plan of the breakwater at Churchgate was contained in the illustrious Vauban's plan; that the necessary money having been at the disposal of the admiralty shire of Plymouth, and after successive attempts it has been established at about 4000 metres from the entrance of the commercial port. Its length is 3,700 metres (the breakwater of Plymouth is only 1800 metres in length), and rises twenty metres above the bottom of the sea; 2000 artificial blocks each of twenty metric cubes, of 44,000 kilograms in weight, defend the foundation of the extreme *moissons*. The last one-and-twenty years of this admirable work have been exclusively employed in the construction of the wall in masonry, which is ten metres fifty centimetres above low-water-mark, and the height of the *moissons* of the two extremes of the central fort, and of the intermediate fort, 1600 metres since 1783 have amounted to 67,300,000 francs. The law of June 25, 1841, appropriated to the completion of the breakwater an extraordinary credit of eighteen millions; but, owing to the care with which the money of the State was administered, a saving of nearly 1,500,000 francs has been effected. Thus a bay, previously formidable to sailors, now offers a sure refuge to the largest vessels in the most violent tempests, and the fleets of France can find there a shelter against the sea and the enemy. It is at the same time a safe asylum open to the commercial shipping of all nations.—*Moulineur*.

THE TRADE OF THE EMPIRE.

The official returns of the trade and navigation of the United Kingdom for the month, and eleven months ending the 5th ult., were issued on Tuesday.

The annexed is a comparative statement of the most interesting imports for the eleven months in each year:—

	1852.	1853.
Sheep.....	37,469	34,640
Wool.....	13,471	21,473
Baileys.....	2,820,100	4,007,014
Oats.....	576,085	799,065
Flour.....	366,249	948,615
Coffee.....	3,051,081	4,397,315
Lbs. 51,316,878	49,976,526	
Cocoa.....	5,508,608	7,389,846
Flax.....	1,270,309	1,613,552
Currants.....	299,313	187,367
Guano.....	115,004	97,375
Hemp.....	888,764	114,450
Palm Oil.....	1,420,218	500,391
Potatoes.....	65,152	98,104
Beef, Pork, and Beef fat.....	269,577	493,531
Silk.....	4,823,936	5,082,299
Braided.....	4,051,352	3,915,525
Garments.....	3,127,306	4,292,948
Geneva.....	158,369	290,385
Timber.....	loads 1,795,873	2,140,615
Tobacco.....	lbs. 253,317,09	35,601,902
Wine.....	5,375,384	9,872,260
Cotton, wool.....	7,082,503	7,599,625
Sheep's and lambs' wool.....	lbs. 78,119,928	103,361,255

The declared value of some of the principal exports for the month Dec. 5, compared with that of the same articles during the corresponding month of the preceding year, is as follows:—

	1852.	1853.
Bear and ale.....	£73,208	£107,922
Cools and Culin.....	93,088	135,641
Cotton manufactures.....	2,045,735	2,240,902
Cotton yarn.....	604,223	656,121
Earthware.....	92,171	130,976
Haberdashery and millinery.....	161,359	306,228
Hardware and cutlery.....	228,581	357,188
Linen manufactures.....	343,477	448,475
Linen yarn.....	11,600	10,488
Machinery.....	11,654	236,526
Mails.....	827,422	1,230,883
Silk manufactures.....	104,014	118,130
Silk thrown.....	31,314	92,020
Wood.....	18,450	24,363
Woolen forms.....	61,778	41,755
Woolen manufacture.....	627,712	756,674
Woolen yarn.....	111,708	83,955

The total declared value of all the exports amounted to £7,628,780, which, compared with the same month in 1852, shows an increase of £1,595,730.

The tonnage of vessels employed in the foreign trade of the United Kingdom, during the month ending Dec. 5, was as under:—

	1852.	1853.
British tons.....	421,225	441,150
Foreign tons.....	213,852	272,124

OUTWARDS.

	1852.	1853.
British tons.....	293,159	324,293
Foreign tons.....	196,047	281,730

The tonnage of vessels employed in the coasting trade of the United Kingdom, during the month of Dec. 5, was 1,037,539 tons against 1,087,527 tons to December, 1852, for the entries inwards; and the clearances outwards represented 1,135,505 tons against 1,086,092 tons in the corresponding month of 1852.

HORSES' FEET IN SNOWY WEATHER.—A correspondent states that grease or soap put into the horses' hoofs will prevent the snow from retaining there.

THE MURDER AT ACTION.—On Monday the Home-office, acting upon the suggestion of Mr. Wakley and the coroner's jury, issued placards to the effect that a reward of £100 would be paid, £50 to the discoverer of the man who drove the coach, and £50 to the discoverer of the person who placed the body in the ditch.

A FARCE OF HONOUR.—A duel was arranged to take place near Eithian on Tuesday last, between a military officer and a naval officer from Woolwich, who were said to have quarrelled about a female.

The seconds, however, having more common sense and discretion than the principals, endeavoured to allay the excitement by proposing that each of the belligerents should present himself before the young woman for her to make choice between them; it is whispered that she was so prudent as to reject them both, as they deserved.

A FACT FOR THE CZAR.—The Emperor of the French some time

back gave directions to the Minister of War to prepare a report, giving an exact detail of the present situation of the French army, to be accompanied with a statement of the number of men which could be employed, if necessary, place without delay on a war footing. This paper, it is said, has been lately sent in, and the number of men which could be employed, as just stated, is set down at 1,350,000.

DISAPPOINTED EASTERN STAMPS.—In all quarters we hear of the despatch of our armament. There is a ready way of accounting for it, the novelty of the new post; the novelty of the new pursuit, in which all are anxious to engage, has induced the men to desert, with the expectation that gold is within their reach without trouble or difficulty. We expect that by this time they are better informed—disappointment may be a salutary mentor; still, the very high rate of wages attainable in those colonies cannot fail to tempt seafarers to desert who have engaged in England.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE.—The renovation of the exterior of the new front of Buckingham Palace having been completed, the scaffolding has been entirely removed, and the principal front of the royal edifice now presents a very much improved and imposing appearance. The additions which have been made to the palace on the south side, forming the south wing, which comprises new ball-rooms of considerable extent, and a riding-house for the use of Her Majesty and the royal family, are now in full use, and other apartments for their use, will add greatly to the comfort and convenience of the illustrious inmates at the same time that they vastly improve the appearance of the palace and its surroundings. The grand central pillar on each side being cut with emblematical figures and ornaments of appropriate character, which will add considerably to the decorative beauties of the new front, and complete the very pleasant effect.

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RUSSIA IN THE BLACK SEA.

The *Cologne Gazette* of the 30th ult. contains the following details relative to the positions of Russia on the eastern coast of the Black Sea:—

"Anapa is the most northern point on the eastern coast of the Black Sea. It is a celebrated fortress, which the Turks originally constructed to protect their commerce with the tribes of the Caucasus. Since then the Russians have made it their most important military position in Circassia. The height is in the fort, even the fortifications are built on the heights. Except in the fort, there is nothing but a few huts and a few tents. At Anapa, where the western chain of the Caucasus commences, is situated the real limit of the Russian empire, as it is to the bastions of that fortress that extends the coast; so dredged, of the Circassians. In spite of their utmost efforts, the Russians have only succeeded in establishing isolated forts, the garrisons of which cannot stir out without running the risk of being cut off. This coast extends from Anapa to Gagri, a distance of 300 kilom. (187 English miles). Between these two places the traveller passes over a rocky coast, crossed by valleys, and crowned with verdant hills, and forming a singular contrast with the masses of white chalk which serve as their base. These hills are covered with a rich vegetation and impenetrable forests, amongst which are dispersed the cabins and straggling villages of the Circassians. The first bay on the east coast is Sutlej-Kal, where the Russians have fended by three fortresses. In this place the Russian garrison captured the English vessel the *Vixen* in an event which produced a great sensation in 1857. Some way further down is the bay of Juelendjik, the finest and safest on the coast, and the most important station of the Russian flotilla appointed to watch the movements of the Circassians. Farther on is the bay of Pchiat, at the entrance of which the Russians have had a fort since 1857. Along the coast, inhabited by the formidable tribe of the Chapskais, are the little bays of Nonulan, Djounulan, Kodos, Suwach, Naidau, and Mamai. This part of Circassia, which is marked by rich cultivation and numerous villages, opposes the most determined resistance to the Russian rule. Beyond Mamai the western coast of the Caucasus assumes a more impetuous character, and the coast is studded with numerous small hills more rugged and more lofty. First of all is seen the little valley of Sutlej, the fort of Navakusko, Cape Lenghi (called the Cape of Hercules by the ancians), and the bays of Kamonchelat and of Kinschuli; next, the sombre fortress of Gagi, commanding the entrance to Circassia on the side of Abasia, behind which rise the precipitous rocks which constitute the most elevated points of the Caucasus.

"In quitting the defiles of Gagi, the high mountains of Abasia are met with. The princes of Abasia have been forced to admit the sovereignty of the Czar. Poznana, famous for its church, which is said to have been founded by the Emperor Justinian, is the first important point of Abasia; then comes Bomaorai, a fort the garrison of which is decimated by sickness; next Gudelajik, one of the best bays on the coast, where the people are half-breed, and the fort of Achazlik on the south, surround this magnificent basin, watered by the rivers Khop and Rion (Phasis). Redout-Kalé and Poti, situated at the head of these two rivers, form the principal points of landing. But it is the chief port of the coast, small vessels that can enter on account of the sandbank which exist there. Large vessels are forced to anchor at 600 metres' distance from the coast. Since the suppression of the transit and free trade in 1833, Redout-Kalé and Poti have lost all commercial importance, and all prospect of a happy future. It would seem as if the Russian Government intends to abandon these towns to their sad fate. They are surrounded by marshy plains, from which exhalte fetid miasmas. At twenty kilom. (eight and a half English miles) above the Phasis, the little river Nasse-Nala (the Lesis of Arrian) separates the Russian territory from that of Turkey. The proportion for Fort Nicholas, which is the last military station of Russia in the Caucasus, and the Terek, have lately seized the fort of Terek, and the garrisons which surround it appear insensibly. The Achazlik mountains approach the sea, and at Balcan enormous masses of rocks rise above the coast. From Witseh the shore falls from the east to the west as it bends to the south. At the western extremity of this curve rises Cape Joros. In the middle is situated Trebizond, become, since the commercial blockade of Russia, one of the most important places in the Black Sea, being the great *entrepot* of all the articles of importation and exportation from Northern Persia, and Turkey in Asia. England has seized on the trade of Trebizond, which amounts to fifty millions of francs, and which is carried on by Constantinople by a regular line of steamers. Trebizond sends into every part of Asia the products of British industry; so that England has the greatest interest that this place should not fall into the power of the Russians. But, abstraction made of that consideration, the situation of Trebizond, in the appearance of the Black Sea, is excellent. The port is situated on the eastern shore of the Black Sea. She possesses there only detached forts, and the Turks have taken one of them—that of Saint Nicholas—which the Russians, notwithstanding all their efforts, have not as yet been able to retake."

The Board of Directors of the Northern of France Railway, on the proposal of Baron James de Rothschild, the President, has just placed 200,000 bread-tickets, for 2 lbs. each, at the disposal of the mayors of the principal towns in the department, to be distributed in the line runs, to be distributed to the poor, during the months of January, February, March, and April.

NEW PUBLIC HALL FOR MANCHESTER.—The great hall, the galleried hall, which were erected in July last to obtain plans and estimates for the intended Public Hall, upon the site of the Free-trade Hall, made their selection last Tuesday week. We understand that six sets of designs were sent in. That by Mr. Walters was chosen by the committee—the prize of 100 guineas being awarded to Mr. Edward Salomon, for the second best design.

Mr. G. V. BROOKE.—*The Belfast Mercury* records an incident in connexion with Mr. G. V. Brooke, which illustrates in an eminent degree the practical benevolence of the tragedian. It appears that Mr. Brooke is in the habit of dispensing his charity every Christmas to the poor of the locality in which he may happen to be sojourning; and now that he is established, at this festive season of the year, in Belfast, he has forgotten this charitable practice. On Wednesday evening, from twelve o'clock until two in the afternoon, he distributed among the poor at the Donegall Arms, where he is staying, no fewer than one hundred blankets, with gifts of money, &c. As the sectarian feeling in Belfast is strong, he has distributed upwards of one hundred tickets amongst four clergymen—namely, the Right Rev. Dr. Deniv. Rev. Dr. Edgar, Rev. Dr. Coake, and Rev. T. F. Miler, vicar of Belfast; and those gentlemen distributed the tickets again to the poor and needy of their respective flocks, and each individual, on presenting a ticket to Mr. Brooke, received a blanket.

THE POETRY OF SCEPTICISM.—Shakespeare, in his own sceptic tragedy, has to depict the pure tragic form, and Hamlet remains the *beau ideal* of the poet of doubt. But what was a tragedy be in which the actors were all Hamlets, or rather, in which the one sceptic is represented by the other?—a play which, though it may be a tragedy, is not a tragedy, for the sake of being a tragedy. And both Ophelia and Laertes, Fortinbras, the king—yes, the very grave-digger, who do their work for good or evil unblushingly, though he is sceptical about his. And both Ophelia and Laertes, Fortinbras, the king—yes, the very grave-digger—know well enough what they want, whether Hamlet does or not. The whole play is, that Shakespeare's *subtile reddit ad absurdum* of that very diseased type of mind which has been for the last forty years identified with "genius"—with one difference, namely, that Shakespeare, with his usual clearness of conception, exhibits the said intellectual type pure and simple, while modern poets deride and confuse it, and all the questions dependent on it, by mixing it up unnecessarily with all manner of moral weaknesses, and very often moral crimes.—*Fraser's Magazine*.

NAVAL AND MILITARY NEWS.

A letter from Lisbon, dated the 28th of December, says, "There has been an unfortunate affair here, of which I will endeavour to give the leading particulars. On Saturday (24th) the fleet, consisting of the Prince Regent (flag), Duke of Wellington, St. Jean d'Acre, Imperiale, Regent, Tribune, Despatch, and other ships, were at anchor off the coast, preparing for a cruise, intending to go as far as Vigo. The wind was foul and unsteady, and the tide ebbing. The St. Jean d'Acre was outside, but, not being ready, was not at anchor. At 10 P.M. she was seen to be about to steer for the shore, towards the south shore to leave room for the others. At this moment with the tide and current running like a mill race (from the late heavy rains) a wind failed; the Tribune, which was only a mile off, was driven upon the shore, and the hull's breadth of the shore. The Despatch also missed stays, and was swept down upon the St. Jean d'Acre in a moment, and impaled upon her bowsprit. Both these ships have been taken over by the Duke of Wellington, and the St. Jean d'Acre is now in the stocks, where their anchors held when they were close to the shore; these two and the Valorous got steam up, and with the Cruiser, at last extricated the shipwrecked. Despatch, with the Tribune, were driven upon the shore, and suffered much, and great injury to top-sails, upper deck beams, and various other damages, but no harm done to the engine. While this was going on, the flagship nearly got on board one of the frigates, lost an anchor (or two) but, by the grace of God, was saved, and the crew were all safe. The Tribune was touched (or not, for it is a vigorously disputed point) the ground. By this time the Duke of Wellington, which works like a Coves yacht, was well out, but the Admiral made the recall, and signalled to anchor, and the cruise is deferred.

The Conflict, sloop-of-war, has sailed for Devonport, to join the steam reserve.

The Meleia, which narrowly escaped total loss on the Lincolshire coast lately, was at the time of her running aground, in charge of the pilot, who will be brought to a court-martial. The Meleia is ordered round to Portsmouth, and docked.

From Plymouth we learn that on Monday a very severe gale from east-north-east sprang up, and caused the total loss of two schooners near Dartmouth. The Alatana, of Exeter, esca-laden, was wrecked on Exmouth beach, and the crew were all safe. The Hopeful, a small sailing vessel, struck a sandbank between the Poles and, having sprung a leak, her master, Henry Kelly, with the hope of saving the lives of the crew, ran her ashore on a beach half a mile east of Dawlish about seven o'clock in the morning. The crew got ashore, and were all safe, after two hours to rise. A lead, to which was attached a line and rope, was thrown over board from the ship. Four of the crew tied the rope round them in successive turns, and were hauled up, and so remained suspended, alternately perched, the Friends (a very old vessel) went to pieces immediately.

The merchant ship St. Hilary, Kirby, of Liverpool, from Manila for London, on 17th days, put into Falmouth on the evening with loss of masts, and many of her rigging dismasted, and crew much exhausted. She reported having passed, on the 20th ult., a very bad mainmast, mizzenmast, and foretopmast yard, gundeck shot, and was then in a very bad way.

A morning after the sea-fight, she was towed to Falmouth, and two hours later, put into Falmouth, having lost her foremast and mainmast, head bulwarks, rails, &c.

The Crossy, 90 guns, new steam-sloop, Captain, Richard L. Warren, has been placed under the masthead of the screwing basin, for the purpose of being repaired. She is to be moored and rigged as a second-class line-of-battle ship.

The Majestic, 90 guns, new steam-sloop, will be immediately got ready for sea.

The briar Fidelity, of North Shields, Captain William Meldram, was lost near Cape Race, Newfoundland. This vessel, 233 tons, from Montreal for London, was laden principally with wheat. Vessel and cargo a total loss, captain and crew saved.

The Fingal, from Quebec for Liverpool, was abandoned on the 1st December. Her crew were taken off by the Excise, arrived at Liverpool, The chaff, which was not fit to be washed overboard and drowned, a few days prior to her abandonment.

FLAG-SHOT AT LETHI.—It is reported that Rear-Admiral the Hon. George Crofton will hoist his flag at Lethi, in a station-ship, as is expected he will procure a great number of young Scotchmen for the service.

SPORTING NEWS.

BETTING AT MANCHESTER.—TUESDAY.

Great anxiety was manifested to see the entry for the 1st of the Cup, consequently specified upon a event was limited to 20 to 1 was the highest. Virtually it would have been 20 to 30 to 1 was, however, the highest offer. Singular to say, all the layers seem to be ruled against that animal. We have no idea what weight he is, but the antecedents show we are but we never had a better chance. The Cup, however, was made for a weight, and such a short figure, as she has been upon this occasion, Catepaw for the same event was much favoured after, and in one instance 50 to 7 was taken, and 100 to 10 were taken when the Black Doctor was taken, and 100 to 10 were taken when the Black Doctor. Other future events were not touched upon. Latest setting?—

CATEPAW CUP.

30 to 1
500 to 7
1000 to 10
Black Doctor (wanted)

LONDON GAZETTES.

FRIDAY, DEC. 30.

BANKRUPTS.

T. EASTAGE, Charing-cross, Pauls, and Tophill-street, boot and shoe-binder, J. and S. Davis, East Smithfield, clothiers—B. VINCENT, Canterbury, boot and shoe maker—W. COPE, Maidstone, builder—W. LUGG, New Windsor, wine-merchant—T. W. THAME, Greenwich, ironmonger—D. PRATT, Ashton, Birmingham, thimble maker—T. BELL, Bristol, ship-owner—W. RICHARDSON, Lombard street, merchant.

TUESDAY, JAN. 3.

BANKRUPTS.

W. B. APPERSON, Pittore street, leather-dresser, merchant—T. WARD, Finsbury-street, leather—P. J. BROWN, Finsbury-street, City, stock and share-broker—W. S. BURGESS, Bury, Lancashire—E. HALL, Cross Hills, York-shire, and Burnley, Lancashire—T. J. HETHERINGTON, Moor, York-shire—DR. J. E. SUMMER, Warrington, Lancashire, licensed victualler—G. PEASLEE, Birkenhead, grocer—J. GRAY, Hull, Lancashire, butcher—R. BROWNSLOW, Ardwick, Manchester, gun and starch manufacturer.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

COLLINS.—On the 20th ult., at her place, Sloane-street, the wife of Henry S. Collins, Esq., of HMS "Cerberus," and a daughter.

DAVISON.—On the 1st inst., at 11, Clarence-court, Charing-cross, the wife of Lieutenant-Colonel James Davidson, 31st Regiment, A.M.I., of a daughter.

FARRENT.—On the 2nd inst., at 42, Marine-parade, Dover, the wife of Lieutenant-Colonel Farrent, K.L.S., late H.M. Chargé d'Affaires in Persia, of a son.

GRANT.—At Castlewiz, near Whitborth, N.H., on the 1st inst., Mrs. Grant, widow of Captain Grant, Indian Navy, of a son.

LAIRD.—On the 20th ult., at 8, Paragon, Blackheath, the wife of Macgregor Laird, Esq., of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

BROWNE—GARFIELD.—On the 20th ult., at West Charlton, Somersett, by the Rev. Augustus G. Birkett, M.A., the Rev. W. T. Caulfield Browne, M.A., eldest son of Rev. Dr. Browne, vicar of Dulley, to Jane Catherine Meade, youngest daughter of Thomas Aubrey (appr., Esq., of Toulton, Somersett).

DAULISH—SHAW.—On the 25th ult., at the parish church of Wigton, by the Rev. Edward Pigott, M.A., vicar of Ashton-in-Mackrfield, George Henry Shaw, Esq., Wigton, to Anne Margaret, daughter of the late Gaitstall-Green.—On the 2nd inst., at St. James's, Notting-hill, by the Rev. Nevill Buckmaster, the Rev. John Gaitstall-Green, A.M., of Notting-hill, to Emily, second daughter of Philip Gaitstall-Green, Esq., of Boyne-hall, Notting-hill, formerly British Consul for the Morava.

DEATHS.

BERRY.—On the 31st ult., at 10, Belgrave-place, Camberwell, Richard Berry, Esq., late of her Majesty's 72nd Regiment, aged sixtynine.

CAMPBELL.—On the 31st ult., at Gwyntown, Finsbury, Julia Charlotte, daughter late Capt. Montgomery Campbell, Esq., of Bennington Park, in the County of Herts, and deceased.

HOLDEN.—On the 26th ult., Margaret, wife of the Rev. Henry Holden, head-master of the Durham Cathedral School, aged seventeen.

VICK.—On the 27th ult., at 10, Belgrave-place, Mrs. Charles Miss Vick, second daughter of the late William Vick, Esq., Jamaica.

FLETCHER.—On the 2nd instant, at his residence, Leamington, John Fletcher, Esq., formerly of Liverpool.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

THREE NEW COMIC SONGS.

KUTTA KAFTA KYNO. Price 2s. post free.
LILLY BAKER. Fourth Edition. Price 2s. post free.
THE COON HUNT (Laughing Song). 2s. post free.

"The best comic songs written these last twenty years."—Observer.

JOHN GAY, 5, Conduit-street, Regent-street, and 67, Paternoster-row.

TO VIOLIN PLAYERS.—FLOWERS OF THE BALL-ROOM.

"A treat equal to dancing master. The music before us contains a popular and fashionable minuet, a set of waltzes, wobus, galope, schottische, polka, and country dances. It seems almost incredible at the price."—Review.

NEW PATRIOTIC SONG.—"UP WITH THE STANDARD OF ENGLAND." With a Chorus and FARNER. Composed by George Sims. Illustrations in four colours. Price 2s. 6d. free for stamps.

"The best comic songs written these last twenty years."—Observer.

JOHN GAY, 5, Conduit-street, Regent-street, and 67, Paternoster-row.

"A fine, bold, patriotic song, truly characteristic and national in its sentiments, and a song for the times it has equalled."

LATE HOURS. New Comic Ballad, sung by Miss Poole with great effect. Composed by GLOVER, the successful composer of the "Camerine," "Cavaller," &c. Price 2s. post free.

JEWELL and LETCHFORD, 17, Soho-square.

125, Fleet Street, London.

Jan. 7, 1854.

M.R. L. A. LEWIS, Auctioneer of Literary Property (Established 1825, without change of name or firm), will have SALES by AUCTION of LIBRARIES, SMALL PARCELS OF BOOKS, EARLY DUPLICATES OF PARTICULAR EDITIONS, VINTAGE BOTTLES, CHINA, GLASS, &c., PICTURES, &c., MISCELLANEOUS EFFECTS, &c., every Saturday throughout the year. Property sent in not later than the previous Friday will be certain to be sold (if required) in the following week.

M.R. L. A. LEWIS will also have occasional SALES OF PRINTING AND BOOK-BBINDING MATERIALS, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, and GENERAL EFFECTS.

CITY OF LONDON TENANTS' INVESTMENT AND FREE-HOLD LAND SOCIETY.—No. 70, King William-street, City. (Entrance from the corner of Clement-street.)

PATRICK, Sir James Duke, M.P., Portland-place.

The Right Honourable S. Lushington, D.C.L., Esq. (late Sheriff of London and Middlesex).
Donald Nicoll, Esq., the Albany (late Sheriff of London and Middlesex).
Deposits of 10s. per upwards received at 5s. per cent. interest.

W. RAYNER, Secretary and Managing Director.

THIS LIVERPOOL and LONDON FIRE and LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY. Capital, 2,000,000. Established in 1833. Empowered by Acts of Parliament.

37, Castle-street, Liverpool, and 1, Pall-mall, London.

Particulars of FIRE POLICIES with this COMPANY expire on the 25th instant, and are respectively remitted that the receipts for the renewal of the same will be sent to the Head Office in Liverpool and London, and in the event of any premium being due, the same will be sent to the subscriber, who may desire to remove their insurance, are informed that no expense will be incurred by such removal.

In the LIFE DEPARTMENT peculiar advantages are offered the Assured, who are enabled to obtain LIFE POLICIES AND ANNUITIES BEING ALLOWED WITHOUT EXTRA PREMIUM, and great facilities are afforded in the payment of renewal premiums through the several agencies throughout the country.

Policies issued free of stamp duty.

Annuits, immediate or deferred.

Further particulars may be had on application.

SWINTON BOULT, Secretary to the Company.
BENJ. HENDERSON, Resident Secretary, London.
December, 1853.

BANK OF DEPOSIT, No. 3, PALL-MALL EAST, and 7, ST. MARTIN'S-PLACE, TRAFALGAR-SQUARE, LONDON. Established May 1844. Parties desirous of Investing Money are requested to communicate with the Manager, or with the Branches, or with the Agents, for the payment of interest, by which a high rate of Interest may be obtained with perfect Security.

The Interest is payable in JANUARY and JULY, and for the conveniences of parties residing at a distance, the same is received at the Branch Offices, or paid through County Bankers, without charge.

PETER MORRISON, Managing Director.
Proprietors free on application.

NEW MARMALADE.

WOTHERSPOON'S SCOTCH MARMALADE was acknowledged by all to be the finest article of the kind made last season. We are now taking orders for this season's make, which we expect will be ready for delivery early in January. As the demand is great every application will be carefully attended to.

JAMES WOTHERSPOON and CO., Glasgow; WOTHERSPOON, MACKAY, and CO., 66, Queen-street, Cheapside, London.

GLENFIELD PATENT STARCH. (Used in the Royal Laundry.)

REINFORCED STARCH. (Used in the Royal Laundry.)
LOZENGES AND COMFETTES, made in neat 4-oz. boxes, FREE FROM COLOURING MATTER, which is so much objected to.—SCOTCH MARMALADE, JAMS, and JELLIES, now taken up by the Royal Laundry for fine quality, prepared by steam-power, for Home Use and Exportation.

London: ROBERT WOTHERSPOON and CO., 66, Queen-street, Cheapside.

Glasgow: ROBERT WOTHERSPOON and CO., 66, Queen-street, Cheapside.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.—The exhibition of the feelings amid scenes of gaiety induces the fair and amiable to turn to us for advice to devote special attention to the duties of the toilet. It is at this festive season that ROWLAND'S MACASAR OIL, for creating and sustaining a luxuriant head of hair; ROWLAND'S KALYPSO, for the complexion; and ROWLAND'S OINTMENT, or PEARL DENTRIFICE, for imparting a pearl-like whiteness to the teeth, are called into increased requisition, to the attainment of those personal advantages so inseparably sought for. The name of the oil is printed on the label, and the name of the balsm or perfume "ROWLAND'S" preceding that of the article on the wrapper or label.—Sold by A. ROWLAND and SONS, 29, Hatton-garden, London, and by Chemists and Perfumers.

SVILLE HOUSE, LEICESTER-SQUARE.—MR. REIMERS beg to announce the continuation of his Anatomical and Ethnological Museum, consisting of upwards of 500 preparations in Wax, &c., to which are just added 150 new and interesting models. Open daily, for Gentlemen only. Admission from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M., and from 4 P.M. till 10 P.M., &c.

OSLER'S CRYSTAL GLASS CHANDELIERS, GAS and CANDLES.—A great variety of the newest designs always on view, at 44, Oxford-street. Also, a large assortment of Glass Lusters, Decanters, Wine-glasses, Decoupage, &c., every article being a work of art, and every article produced by a master glass-blower.

A large and choice collection of Ornamental Glass of the newest description, suitable for Christmas presents. Export and furnishing orders executed with despatch.—44, Oxford-street. Manufactory, Broad-street, Birmingham. Established 1807.

TEAS AND COFFEES AT WHOLESALE PRICES.—Delivered carriage-free to any part of England, to the amount of 3s., and upwards.

Congou, 2s. 10d., 3s., and 3s. 4d. per lb. Ceylon Coffee, 10d. and 1s. per lb. Souchong, 3s. 6d., 4s., 5s., 6s., 7s., 8s., 9s., 10s., 11s., 12s., 13s., 14s., 15s., 16s., 17s., 18s., 19s., 20s., 21s., 22s., 23s., 24s., 25s., 26s., 27s., 28s., 29s., 30s., 31s., 32s., 33s., 34s., 35s., 36s., 37s., 38s., 39s., 40s., 41s., 42s., 43s., 44s., 45s., 46s., 47s., 48s., 49s., 50s., 51s., 52s., 53s., 54s., 55s., 56s., 57s., 58s., 59s., 60s., 61s., 62s., 63s., 64s., 65s., 66s., 67s., 68s., 69s., 70s., 71s., 72s., 73s., 74s., 75s., 76s., 77s., 78s., 79s., 80s., 81s., 82s., 83s., 84s., 85s., 86s., 87s., 88s., 89s., 90s., 91s., 92s., 93s., 94s., 95s., 96s., 97s., 98s., 99s., 100s., 101s., 102s., 103s., 104s., 105s., 106s., 107s., 108s., 109s., 110s., 111s., 112s., 113s., 114s., 115s., 116s., 117s., 118s., 119s., 120s., 121s., 122s., 123s., 124s., 125s., 126s., 127s., 128s., 129s., 130s., 131s., 132s., 133s., 134s., 135s., 136s., 137s., 138s., 139s., 140s., 141s., 142s., 143s., 144s., 145s., 146s., 147s., 148s., 149s., 150s., 151s., 152s., 153s., 154s., 155s., 156s., 157s., 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873s., 874s., 875s., 876s., 877s., 878s., 879s., 880s., 881s., 882s., 883s., 884s., 885s., 886s., 887s., 88

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL.

THIS school for poor fatherless children and foundlings was instituted by Edward the Sixth, who completed its foundation only ten days before his death, in 1553. It stands upon the site of the Monastery of Grey Friars, of which a cloister still remains in the south side of the principal quadrangle. The parts built in the reigns of Edward and his sister, failing to decay, have all been restored; but are scarcely distinguishable from the modern additions, which all affect the style of that period, except the Great Hall (the building seen from Newgate-street), built by James Shaw, the architect of St. Dunstan's-in-the-West, in the Gothic style. This Hall was opened in 1829; and the Grammar School, built by a son of Mr. Shaw, has been added still more recently.

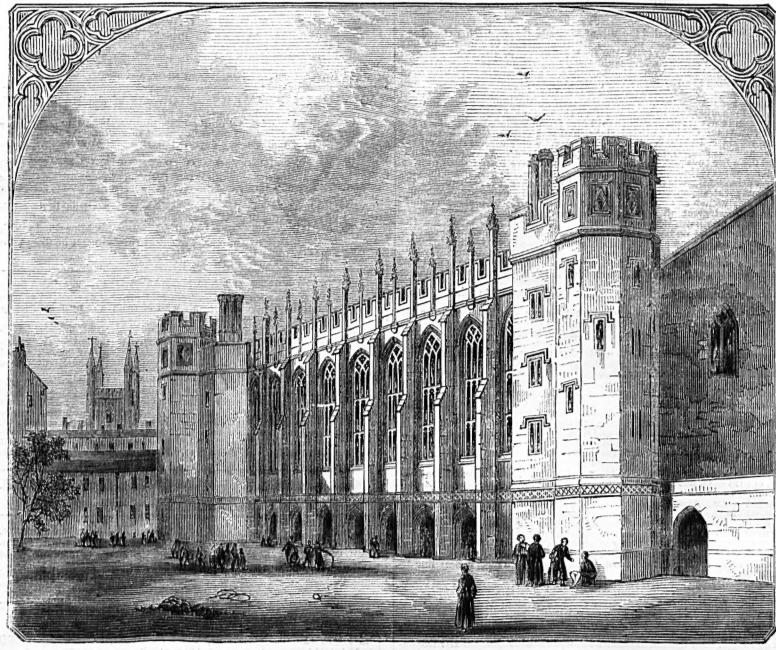
The Mathematical School was founded by Charles II. in 1672 for forty boys, called "King's boys," distinguished by a badge on the right shoulder. This school was afterwards enlarged by Mr. Stone. The boys on the new foundation wear a badge on the *left* shoulder, and are called the "Twelves" from their number. The "Twos" have since been added, on another foundation; making in all fifty-four scholars. The "King's boys" are presented at Court every New Year's Day.

The Writing School was founded and furnished, in 1691, at the sole charge of Sir John Moore, who had been Lord Mayor of London. The wards or dormitories are seventeen in number. Each boy makes his own bed, and each ward is governed by a nurse, and two or more monitors.

About 900 children are educated in this vast establishment, exclusive of the younger ones, who are kept at a preparatory school at Hertford, and sometimes number 500. Forty thousand pounds a year, in round numbers, are annually expended in the maintenance and education. No boy is admitted into the school under seven, and none above fifteen, unless he be a King's boy or a Greekian. The dress of the Blue-coat boys is not the only remnant of bygone times peculiar to the school. Old names still haunt the precincts of the Grey Friars; the place where the bread and butter is stored is still called the "buttery," and the open ground in front of the Grammar School is still distinguished as the "ditch," because the ditch of the City ran through the precinct. The boys still take their milk from wooden bowls, their meat from wooden trenchers, and their beer is poured from leatheren black-jacks into wooden piggins. They have also a currency and almost a language of their own. The bread and beer for breakfast, however, has been discontinued since 1824; and many quaint old customs are gradually dying away, leaving the bare head and curiously dressed to indicate the ancient institution of the school. "We hope," says a late writer, "the unshorn dress will be jealously guarded, as one of the barriers wisely set up to guard the school against the encroachment of that irresistible power which seems inevitably, sooner or later, to absorb or appropriate to the rich every patrimony of the poor in this country."

Early in the present century, some energetic efforts were made, at different times, to recover the interest of the poor in this splendid charity—an institution that seems then to have been so completely null that the pride of those who had monopolised it had actually erased an inscription on the building that recorded its objects in language too blunt for their refined taste, "This is Christ's Hospital where poor Blue Coat Boys are kept and educated;" nor has that inscription, as far as we can discover, been restored. It was, however, restored, and those engraved behind the letter of the wall, though at its spirit, to the after-work, afterwards the education has since taken place is due to no coercion, but solely to moral force, and the individual good feeling of the Governors, on whom alone it depends whether any or how much of the establishment shall at any time be a charity-school, or simply a proprietary one."

The price of a Governorship is £500, which gives the power of presenting a boy once in three years for life. A list of all Governors who have presentations is published every year at the Hospital. Besides this, the Lord Mayor has two presentations, and each alderman one presentation annually; with the privilege of nominating one Governor at half-price.



THE BLUECOAT SCHOOL.

Four boys are yearly sent to the Universities; and there are two scholarships of £30 each, founded by the Pitt Club and the proprietors of the *Times*. About seventy girls are educated at the Hertford branch.

THE AFFAIR AT MATSCHIN.

In the night between the 12th and 13th December, two Russian steamers, having six gun-boats in tow, passed in front of Galatz on their way to Ivrilia. On the following morning, about ten o'clock, a heavy cannonade was heard at Galatz in the direction of Matschin, a Turkish town containing from 4000 to 5000 souls, situated about four leagues south-east of Ivrilia, in the embouchure of one of the arms of the Danube, at the foot of a range of mountains, where a few small breastworks have been thrown up. According to the latest information received, the following are the cause and circumstances of the combat which took place near Matschin. For nearly a month the garrison of

that place, consisting of from 5000 to 6000 infantry and a small detachment of cavalry, was a continual source of annoyance to the garrison of Ivrilia, by sending out excursions of sharpshooters to attack the Wallachian outposts stationed on an island opposite the town. These outposts, eight or ten in number, which commanded a view of the Turkish operations, were successively destroyed by small detachments, which, under cover of night, landed on the island, surprised and set fire to their quarters. General Lauder, wishing to put an end to these continual attacks, had issued the order to the commander of the garrison of Ivrilia to proceed with his troops, and a company of sharpshooters, to be conveyed across the right bank to make an attack on the vicinity of Matschin; but as the appeal was feebly responded to, though heightened, by the prospect held out of booty in the shape of a *coop de main* against the general resolved to attempt a *coop de main* against Matschin.

On the night of the 13th, the two steamers, with the six gun-boats, landed 5000 men on the right bank of the Danube, 2000 of which belonged to the garrison of Ivrilia, 1000 to the camp of Sereth, and the remainder to the garrison of Galatz. This little corps, commanded by Brigadier Engelhardt and Colonel Daragan, advanced on Matschin with the intention of attacking it in the rear or the north-eastern side. While the corps was being carried out by the flotilla under the direction of General Lauder, who with his staff and a portion of the steamers which did not take an active part in the action, arrived here the canal crosses into the Danube, and attacked a battery situated on the extreme left of the town. The fire opened at half-past ten and was kept up on both sides till noon, at which hour it ceased, when the flotilla, abandoning that point, attacked a second battery on the extreme right of the town, so as to combine its fire with that of the infantry, which was approaching the town. This second battery received the enemy still more vigorously than the first, and withstood, unshaken, the fire of the flotilla till nightfall. The water of the river being very low, the Russian guns were all pointed too high, so that they nearly all passed over the battery, and the resistance joined to the energetic defence of the garrison of the town, which, at noon, exchanged a *canonade* with the Russian infantry, completely defeated the projected *coop de main*, the only object of which was to take the place and burn it down, and compel the Turkish garrison to retreat into the interior. According to Russian officers, the same plan appears to have been adopted to drive away the Turkish garrisons from all the points they occupy on the right bank of the Lower Danube, and from which they would not fail to make excursions to the left bank should the river become frozen over. An attack is daily expected on the part of the Russians against Isatchka and Touliche, where a small Russian steamer is attempting to destroy with her guns a small group of houses on the right bank of the Danube opposite Galatz, at the entrance of a canal forming a small peninsula; this attack, however, was repelled by a few shots fired into the steamer by a Turkish post-quartered on the bank.

Even according to a Russian version, the Russians had 400 to 500 wounded at the attack on Matschin. This, however, requires confirmation. The troops forming the expedition returned to their respective quarters on the night between the 13th and 14th. The flotilla received very immaterial damage, from which it would appear that the guns of the Turkish batteries were of very light calibre.

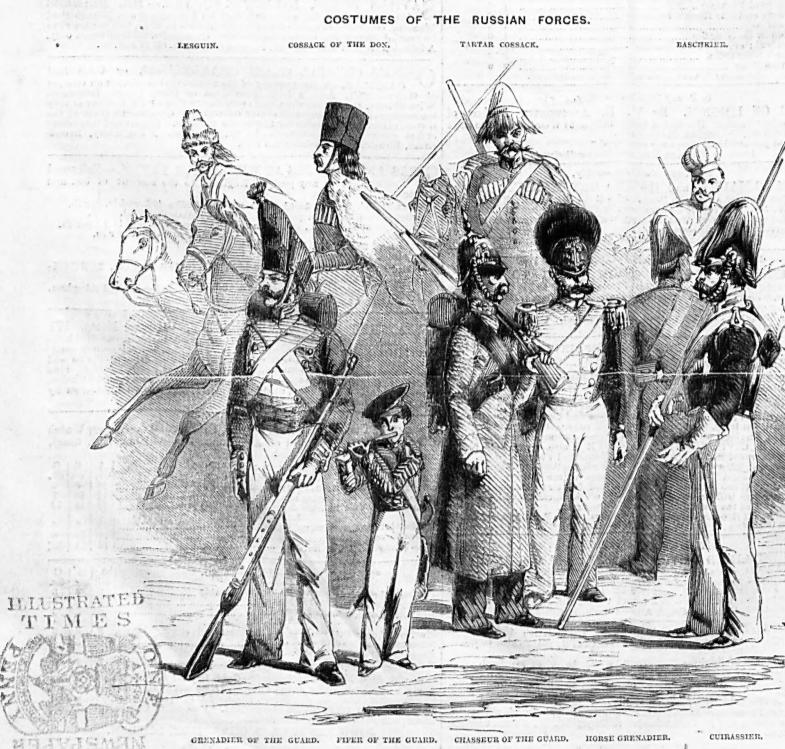
A PLUSH GRIEVANCE.

The following letter from an unprotection footman has appeared in the *Times*, and we really hope the suggestion of the injured one may not be overlooked:

"Sir—Will you allow this to appear throughout your times. 'To theater Proprietary and other Publick Amusement Sir when A Servent is ordered by his Master or Mrs. to be Therat at Such A time he stands where he is Most Likely to See Them without anying the Publick A Pleasance' comes and Said Go out Just as if he is driving out A Pack of hounds without Telling us theare is such Reglosulations But drives us out like dogs. Therat be a Remedy to alter this South of things without being Treated like beasts by a Pleasance. The same thing happened to me the other night at The Princess theater This is why I ask the question where is the Servants to Stand without being insulted by A Pleasance who dont know is duty."

"I Remain Sir, your obedently Servent

"A FOOTMAN."



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GRENAIDER OF THE GUARD. PIPER OF THE GUARD. CHASSEUR OF THE GUARD. HORSE GRENAIDER. CUIRASSIER.

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